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HISTORY BUFFS UNCOVER HIDDEN TREASURES IN PHOTO ALBUMS

Unseen picture of Jacko found by port archivists

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

PREVIOUSLY unseen photographs of pop legend Michael Jackson and Hollywood actress Catherine Zeta Jones have been uncovered by history buffs at the Port of Dover.

The precious finds were revealed by a team of employees at the eastern docks who are currently cataloguing 42 photo albums dating back to the 1880s.

Dover Harbour Board workers Chris Knight, Bob Wainwright, Andy Rintoul and retired Ian Rintoul wanted to preserve the history of the port for future generations.

But never did they imagine finding such treasures.

As well as old black and white images of Hollywood star Catherine Zeta Jones with actress Pam Ferris taken at the port during the heyday of the ITV drama Darling Buds of May – filmed at nearby Pluckley, near Ashford – a picture of pop icon Michael Jackson shaking hands with an unnamed ferry captain during a trip to the UK was also discovered.

The date of the picture is not known – nor is the reason for his journey – but it appears to be taken at the height of his mid 1980s fame.

Among the finds was a letter from former Prime Minister Winston Churchill written on January 1, 1941, thanking the staff of Dover Harbour Board for their good wishes and recognising the sacrifice of the people of Dover during the war.

"The people of Dover had much to endure in 1940," he wrote. "They were attacked not only by bomb, but also by shell fire and they saw the enemy installed in positions not far distant

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



MAN IN THE MIRROR: Port workers discovered this unseen picture taken sometime during the 1980s of Michael Jackson shaking hands with an unnamed ferry captain

Clerk bids town's council a farewell

THE town clerk of Dover Town Council has retired after more than five years in the role.

Mike Webb stepped down from the position last Thursday and will be replaced by the incoming town clerk Allison Burton.

Mr Webb said: "I leave the council with many happy memories and some regrets.

"However, I have total confidence for the future, knowing that Allison and her team will give full support to the incoming council.

"Accordingly, I look forward to seeing the Town Council becoming ever more central, pivotal and effective in the affairs of our town."

FULL STORY – PAGE 3

Stretches of coast may be protected

MARINE sites around the coast could become protected areas under new conservation laws.

As part of an ongoing project called Balanced Seas – one of four regional programmes taking place in England – stretches of the sea around Dover, Deal, and Shepway could be named Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ).

The scheme looks to balance socio-economic activities, such as development and water sports, with the preservation of nationally important biodiversity and threatened species.

Some of the sites may not end up as MCZs, but they have been highlighted for consideration by the expert panel.

FULL STORY – PAGE 2

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Coastal protection looks for balance



FRUITS DE MER: Dover mentioned in the plan, including its commercially harvested oyster population (inset)

MARINE sites around the Kent coast could become protected areas under new conservation laws.

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

As part of an ongoing project called Balanced Seas – one of four regional programmes taking place in England – stretches of the sea around Dover, Deal, Shepway and Thanet and estuaries in Swale and Medway could be named Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ).

The scheme looks to balance socio-economic activities, such as development and water sports, with the preservation of nationally important biodiversity and threatened species.

Margate and Long Sands, on the north Kent coast, became a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) last year, with the MCZ project looking to form part of the wider network of Marine Protected Areas. A third progress report by Balanced Seas has been submitted to the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) – an independent body of marine scientists appointed by Defra – outlining recommendations for new protected sites.

Dover Harbour, the Goodwin Sands, Folkestone Holes, Thanet coast and the Medway and Swale estuaries were all put forward as draft MCZs.

Phil Darrell-Smith, communications co-ordinator for Balanced Seas, stressed that some of the sites may not end up as MCZs, but that they had been highlighted for consideration by the expert panel.

"Something that makes this project unique is for the first time stakeholders are leading the way and choosing the sites," he said.

"With other protected sites in Europe, Government decided where they would be. We have stakeholders from all different groups – sea-users, developers, wildlife groups – everyone that has an interest in or uses the sea. We have to remain neutral."

Sustainable

Mr Darrell-Smith said stakeholders looked at areas which had ecological importance as well as high socio-economic activity.

"Less than one per cent of seas around England are protected. We're looking to create a balance to allow for sustainable use and a sustainable future," he said.

"There are a variety of sea-users – yachters, kite-surfers, energy companies looking for sites for wind farms – they are all involved in the stakeholder process."

Final recommendations for the MCZ will be submitted at the end of August. Following a formal public consultation in spring 2012 the Government will designate new protected zones by December 2012, based on stakeholder input.

Balanced Seas project manager Sue Wells said she was grateful to the work of the groups involved in the report process. "For the first time in the UK, marine protected areas are being recommended by people with a real interest in the sustainable management of the sea and its resources," she said.

Andrew Finlay, from Crown Estates – one of the organisations involved – congratulated Balanced Seas for the progress made.

"We welcome the important role MCZs will play in supporting a coherent network of UK Marine Protected Areas," he said.

Balanced Seas, which works in partnership with Natural England, University of Kent and Kent County Council, covers inshore and offshore UK water of the eastern Channel and adjacent areas.

The protected zones will fall under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. For more information go to www.balancedseas.org.

Border controls stem tide

STRINGENT border controls have driven down the number of illegal immigrants attempting to cross the Channel by two-thirds – from 29,383 to 9,735 – in just one year.

The decrease is being put down to the use of improved technology in northern French ports and the closure of refugee camps in Calais.

Immigration minister and Ashford MP Damian Green said it had been made increasingly difficult for illegal immigrants to evade border controls and reach Britain.

"While the number of vehicles checked has remained stable at 1.5 million [annually], we have seen fewer attempts to cross the Channel illegally – with 9,700 individuals found last year, compared with just over 29,000 in 2009," he said.

"The increased joint working by the UK Border Agency and the French authorities at the French ports continues to ensure the UK remains protected."

Over the five years up until 2010, the number of illegal immigrants trying to enter the UK by crossing the Channel from Calais, Coquelles, Dunkirk and Belgium to Kent had risen year on year.

Between 2007 and 2008, a rise of almost 11,500 – 17,859 to 29,271 – was reported. In 2008 a new force was launched in the form of the UK Border Agency, which saw HM Revenue and Customs, the Border and Immigration Agency and UK Visas team up to clamp down on immigrants attempting to enter the country illegally.

Teams are stationed in Kent, France and Belgium. Using a range of technology, including heartbeat detectors and probes used to detect irregular levels of carbon dioxide in containers, officers have been able to detect thousands of illegal immigrants.

Scanners and sniffer dogs are also used. At Calais, the chamber of commerce and industry screens all vehicles.



An ale and hearty farewell to Mike

By **MATHEW BEECH**

mathew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

DOVER Town Council's clerk has retired after more than five years in the role.

Mike Webb stepped down as town clerk last Thursday and will be replaced by Allison Burton.

Mr Webb said: "I leave with many happy memories and some regrets.

"However, I have total confidence for the future, knowing Allison and her team will give full support to the incoming council. I look forward to seeing the council becoming ever more central, pivotal and effective in the affairs of our town."

After the full town council meeting on Wednesday, last week, councillors held a surprise reception for Mr Webb to wish him well in his retirement.

Guests included Mr Webb's wife Carole, his sister Marilyn Stephenson-Knight, and Simon John Chambers of the Dover War Memorial Project. Mayor Cllr Sue Jones presented Mr Webb with a half-yard of ale, inscribed with the town crest.

One of his staff told Mr Webb: "You've been one of the best bosses I've had the pleasure of working for."

Incoming town clerk Ms Burton thanked him for making her so welcome and said he was welcome any time to come in and borrow the wig for old times' sake. Staff presented Mr Webb with a crystal decanter and glasses. The decanter was inscribed with the words: 'Happy days are here at last, The days of 9 to 5 are past, You've worked all your life and paid your dues, Now you'll do, just what you choose. Love, the Girls, Chris, and Jim.' Mr Webb intends to spend more time with his grandchildren and he and Carole are already planning their first retirement holiday.



Pictures SIMON JOHN CHAMBERS

TOAST: Staff at Dover town clerk Mike Webb's retirement reception



CHEERS: Cllr Sue Jones presents half-yard of ale

• Meanwhile, prospective candidates for the upcoming local elections are being urged to come forward.

Events for hopefuls are being held at Dover District Council offices at Whitfield. For district council candidates, meetings are from 6-8pm today (Wednesday), and Tuesday, March 29.

Prospective candidates for parish and town elections are being held from 6-8pm on Tuesday, March 22, and Thursday, March 24.

The team will provide details of the election process and nomination packs will be available.

Presentations will be given about parish councils by the Kent Association of Local Councils. People interested in local matters and helping the community are invited to attend. Elections will be held on May 5 for district, town and parish councils.

The parliamentary referendum on the future voting system in the UK will also be held on that day.

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Gems from the port archive



LARKIN ABOUT: Catherine Zeta Jones and Pam Ferris from Darling Buds of May

FROM FRONT PAGE

from their own White Cliffs.

"They have faced these dangers in a manner worthy of Dover's great traditions and I know that whatever 1941 may bring their courage and resourcefulness will not be found wanting."

The team's work, which is being carried out voluntarily, is entering its third year, with advice from archivists at Dover Museum, Kent Archives and Canterbury Cathedral.

It first began when Mr Knight and Ian Rintoul noticed some of the port's historic photo albums were deteriorating.

Despite most photos being in good condition, except for a few damp stains, the pair felt action should be taken to preserve them for staff reference, local knowledge and national heritage.

Armed with scanners, copying stands and cameras, the team secured a site within the Eastern Docks and started the archiving process.

Mr Knight said: "The team is photographing the contents of the 42 albums, filing by the year if possible and storing the pictures onto our computer system, while I scan the loose photographs and any associated copy onto a laptop.

"The aim is that staff will eventually be able to access all the photographs using a subject search to satisfy any enquiries from the public while the originals are stored away in suitable containers."

The archivists are continuing to work through the undiscovered treasures before revealing more historical gems.

• ***Do you know why the late King of Pop was on the ferry? Email yourdover@kosmedia.co.uk***



BULLDOG SPIRIT: Letter from war leader Winston Churchill

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Disillusioned Anglicans look to Rome for tradition

CHURCHES have seen their congregations decimated this week after dissident Anglican priests and their parishioners turned to Rome.

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the exodus in both Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells, as worshippers opted instead to celebrate their first mass at Catholic churches.

In Tunbridge Wells, Father Ed Tomlinson led 70 worshippers to join St Anselm's Roman Catholic Church in Pembury, leaving a congregation of just 15 at his former church, St Barnabas.

Meanwhile, Father Ivan Aquilina took 40 parishioners with him to St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church in Sevenoaks, leaving 50 at the town's St John the Baptist Church.

They join about 600 Anglicans nationally who have decided to leave the Church of England over liberal reforms such as the ordination of women bishops.

Pope Benedict XVI has created a body called the English Ordinariate, for Church of England traditionalists who want to switch allegiance to Rome while retaining some of their Anglican customs.

Father Tomlinson said: "The big day for us was last Sunday, when we said goodbye. Wednesday was the beginning of Lent and we are joining with the Catholic Church to celebrate that."

Tentative

He described this week's move as a "very quiet, tentative first-step" in preparing to convert to the Ordinariate for Holy Week at Easter.

The future of St Barnabas in Stanley Road looks bleak with just 15 Anglican parishioners left.

"It makes its viability very difficult," Father Tomlinson said. "One of the really sad things is that I proposed to the Church of England we might share the building and work together, but the Church of England has been a bit sore about that, so we're leaving with nothing.

"We've not changed what we teach, what has changed is the wider Church of England, who want to worship in a different way. It was a matter of standing up for what we believe in."

Father Aquilina spoke about his decision to leave the Church of England and his former church in Quaker's Hall Lane.

"The most important thing that moved me to join the Ordinariate is Jesus – I believe that we have to be faithful to what he said."

Speaking about the changes in the Church of England, he added: "The ordination of women to the priesthood is just part. It is a question of the unity of the church and not working together on important issues such as re-marrying divorcees and gay marriages. The Church of England is deciding, rather than talking with Christians to find a common decision."

To see this clip search 'Spitfire' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



A replica of the first prototype was on display at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne

£250m cost of getting our roads up to scratch

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

COUNTY Hall's highways chiefs have admitted it would take a one-off payment of £250 million to bring Kent's 5,000 miles of road up to standard.

But with £95m savings needed overall in the authority's budget for 2011/12 and a 20 per cent drop in the roads' money pot, Kent County Council has had to devise resourceful ways to ensure efficient maintenance of our pothole-ridden highways.

A KCC spokesman said the £250m was a one-off figure that would allow the authority to restore the county's roads, covering a wide range of works.

He stressed that if the money was spent, it would not include emergency works, but non-urgent, low-grade maintenance.

"If this sum were spent on our roads, they would still require between £50-60m annually to maintain," he said.

Leader of KCC Paul Carter told the BBC the authority was spending £40-£50m on roads – without an initial £250m blitz.

With mounting financial pressure and a reduction in Government grants of about 20 per cent for highways, the authority has had to come up with schemes to keep Kent's drivers moving.

Director of Kent Highway Services, John Burr, said efforts were being concentrated through efficiency savings, contract control and smarter ways of working. This includes using pre-wet salting when gritting the roads, which involves spraying a saline solution on to salt as it is fired out, causing it to stick to the road surface and prevent it from being blown off.



POT HOLES: Two winters of bad weather have wreaked havoc on roads across Kent

Growth retardants are also being used on grass verges so they require fewer cuts.

Mr Burr said smarter ways of working would help keep Kent moving and improve the 5,000-mile road network.

"Maintaining and improving the safety of our roads remains our top priority," he said.

"Further funds are also invested in preventative treatments. This type of investment helps reduce costs in the longer term."

In January, a month-long pothole blitz was launched involving an army of tarmac firms fixing dangerous potholes across the county.

Last year a 'find and fix' campaign was rolled out to repair damage to roads caused by snow and ice.

Over the next few weeks KCC will assess the damage caused to highways during the winter with a view to running a similar campaign this year.

Pair jailed for torture attack

TWO young women jailed for imprisoning and torturing a former friend during a horrific 18-hour attack after a row over a man have had their sentences upheld.

Georgia Fenn, 18, was subject to a brutal attack which included being scalded with boiling water mixed with sugar.

Lucy Viner-Mood, 22, and Lois Gibson, 18, both of Homewood Road, Langton Green, were sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court last year.

Viner-Mood was given a five-year jail term for false imprisonment and three-and-a-half years for assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH), to run concurrently. Her accomplice, Gibson, was sentenced to three years for false imprisonment and two years for ABH, also to run at the same time.

Whale buried

THE 45-foot-long sperm whale washed up at Pegwell Bay in Ramsgate was cut up and removed last weekend.

Samples, including parts of its jawbone, have been taken away for further examination at the Natural History Museum, while the rest of the carcass has been buried in a landfill site.

An on-site autopsy revealed the juvenile hadn't eaten for up to four days before it was washed ashore last week.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY NICK AMES

Hero's return to finest hour

WING Commander Robert Foster DFC, of 605 Squadron, is one of the last surviving members of what Winston Churchill famously called 'The Few'.

He flew Hurricanes during the Battle of Britain and last weekend went along to the memorial to the aerial conflict on the cliffs at Capel le Ferne, where a replica Spitfire was being placed on display. It is a faithful rendition of the prototype of the famous warplane.

"I always enjoy coming here, it is very moving," he said. "I know there is a monument in London but this seems more relevant. It was in these skies and over the White Cliffs that the Battle of Britain was mainly fought."

Shortly before World War Two, Wing Cmdr Foster learnt to fly with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Called up for service in September, 1939, he completed his training and was posted to 605 Squadron, equipped with Hawker Hurricane fighters. By early September, 1940, he and his squadron were in the thick of the air fighting over southern England, operating from Croydon.

First sortie

"I flew my first operational sortie on September 7, the day the Blitz on London really started," he said.

"I remember firing into the enemy formations, but I don't think I hit anything.

"I do remember the first chap I shot down. We were bounced [attacked and surprised] by some ME109s [Luftwaffe fighters] who came out of the sun.

"My friend Charles English's aircraft was hit. He tried to get out but his parachute stuck and he didn't make it. I spun away and as I pulled out I could see a 109 right in front of me. I was behind him and he didn't see me, so I gave him a two or three second burst and he crashed."

Wing Cmdr Foster – then a Pilot Officer – usually intercepted attacking fighter and bomber formations over Sussex and would then frequently chase them across Kentish skies. He said he only remembers the war when he is asked about it – and during last year's 70th anniversary "it was all I was ever asked about".

However his recollections are extremely clear. "I remember once going after some ME110s [twin engine fighters] and my engine blew up – I thought I'd been hit," he said.

"There was smoke and glycol [engine coolant] all over the place and later I found it was just a mechanical fault. I saw a large field and managed to get down on it – turned out to be Gatwick.

Bombed

"Another time I was running out of fuel and knew I wouldn't get home – so I put down at West Malling which had just been bombed. The people there were very upset with me. The commanding officer shouted at me: 'Get off – as soon as the Germans see a plane here they bomb us'. So I left – after getting my fuel, of course."

But not all air combat ended so safely. "We attacked some 109s over Maidstone and drove them off," Wing Cmdr Foster said. "But my squadron CO stuck around. Maybe he wanted to see if any of the enemy were still there. But he was attacked and shot down and died."

Surviving the battle, Wing Cmdr Foster joined 54 Squadron and later became an RAF instructor. His unit became part of a group sent out to Australia to help defend the Darwin area and engaged the Japanese incursions throughout 1943.

He finished the war with seven confirmed victories and three probables.

Awarded the DFC for his efforts, he returned to the UK and was given an assignment with an RAF public relations unit, ending up in Normandy within three weeks of the invasion of 1944.

Often serving right up in the frontline, Wing Cmdr Foster saw the war at very close hand, and then quite by chance became one of the first RAF officers to enter Paris with the liberating French army, and again by chance, was in General Charles de Gaulle's triumphant procession down the Champs-Élysées.



STANDING TALL: Robert Foster next to the replica Hurricane at Capel le Ferne, where his name is inscribed on the Battle of Britain National Memorial wall (inset, top)

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Flood defence action 'vital to save coastline'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

COASTAL experts have warned that preparations must be made now to prevent parts of Kent being lost to the sea forever.

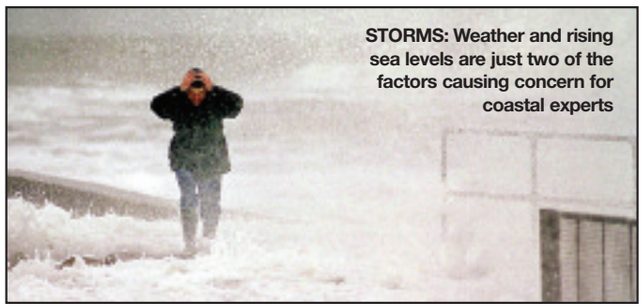
According to new research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the county's extensive coastline is one of the most at-risk areas in the UK, due to the expected rise in global sea levels and increased storm frequency over the next 90 years.

The study – Impacts of Climate Change on Disadvantaged UK Coastal Communities – comes just weeks after it was revealed that global warming played a part in causing the floods of 2000, that hit Maidstone and Tonbridge in particular.

Jeremy Richardson, director of the engineering consultancy URS-Scott Wilson, which co-authored the document said: "There's a need for a realistic debate on how to protect coastal regions because some tough choices are going to have to be made.

"We need to consider the risks, how we're going to spend the money, and what areas we must protect first.

"It would be great to start work on this straight away, but that's going to be terribly difficult to do until we get enough people who understand the full extent of the issues."



STORMS: Weather and rising sea levels are just two of the factors causing concern for coastal experts

According to the Rowntree report, the parts of Kent on the Thames Estuary are most vulnerable to erosion, due to their low-lying and soft-sediment coasts.

Flooding

Increased rainfall is the main cause of concern for people living on the northern or western coastlines.

In 2009, the Environment Agency revealed that one in six homes in England is at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea or overflowing drains, and that investment in flood defences will need to almost double to £1 billion a year by 2035.

However, the Government has slashed flood defence spending by more than 20 per cent to a figure of £529 million a year for the next four years.

Mr Richardson said: "The Coalition has said it realises how important flood defence is, but clearly the cuts leave us with a huge job to do.

"There is an increased number of tough decisions to make over the next few years, but we would still have these decisions without the credit crunch."

In March last year, emergency planners at Kent County Council drew up the county's most detailed flood response document ever.

The plan – which will be updated on KCC's intranet site – includes risk assessments, the role of the emergency services and which locations are most likely to flood.

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Government urged to pressure drugs giant into deferring redundancies after

MP Sandys in Commons plea to minister on Pfizer timeline

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

SANDWICH MP Laura Sandys has made an impassioned plea to Government to push Pfizer to defer redundancies to give staff a better chance of finding jobs.

In a parliamentary debate on Monday, Ms Sandys criticised the drugs giant for giving employees just 90 days to explore new work opportunities. Addressing science minister David Willetts, she called on the Government to speak to the company.

"Pfizer has been at Sandwich for 60 years, but has given its staff and the community just 90 days to readjust," she said.

"We know significant numbers of staff will be made redundant soon with little time for support to be put in place in terms of helping them set up businesses or identify investors who might want to buy some of the assets and keep those important jobs at the site in Sandwich.

"While I pay tribute to the local management who are trying to put in place new opportunities, they too have little time to ensure jobs stay before redundancies are issued.

"This is a great disappointment, as there are some really exciting opportunities. The site and the staff have real potential."

Ms Sandys said more time was needed from Pfizer to give staff a chance to find new opportunities in the wake of the bombshell last month, when the drugs giant announced it would be pulling out of Sandwich, with the loss of 2,400 jobs.

Taking into consideration contractors at the site and public sector cutbacks, Ms Sandys said the figure could see an additional 5,000 jobs lost in east Kent.

She stressed that staff wanting to set up businesses will not have the time to get finances together or set up packages before the dispersal of employees begins.



SHUTDOWN: Pfizer's European R&D centre

"We can't stop Pfizer from leaving the site – it's their decision and their responsibility – but I'd like to ask the minister to help us with our discussions," she said.

"I'm not asking Pfizer to change their exit date, 2012 will be when they exit their activities in Sandwich, but that does not mean that they have to rush the redundancies now when so much has been put in place to mitigate the company's decision.

"Ninety days after 60 years. I'm not sure that is fair or reasonable. We need more time. The staff and contractors need more time and our east Kent economy needs more time."

Mr Willetts agreed with Ms Sandys that the 90-day period was a difficult prospect for staff.

"After 60 years of presence in the area, during which time researchers and staff have developed extraordinarily successful drugs, it is understandable the prospect of a 90-day process is very painful," he said.

Ms Sandys also called on the Government to back the creation of a life science centre at the Sandwich site and discussed the improvement of transport links to the facility.



CONCERN: South Thanet MP Laura Sandys
INSET: Science minister David Willetts

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Housing market awaits impact of the shutdown

PFIZER'S decision to pull out of Sandwich could have repercussions for the east Kent property sector as well as the jobs market.

A law firm says it expects the drug giant's withdrawal and the loss of thousands of jobs to deflate the housing market at the top end. Senior partner at Fosters Law, Edward Foster, said although the lower end of the market would most likely remain stable, those in homes worth more than £250,000 could be forced to reduce selling prices.

His warning followed the announcement by Pfizer that it was leaving Sandwich, putting at least 2,400 jobs at risk and raising concerns that many people would leave the area. Mr Foster, whose firm has offices in Broadstairs, Canterbury and Herne Bay, said: "If the market is suddenly filled with properties, prices will fall. It's demand and supply.

"Prices will be pushed down and properties in places such as Ash and Wingham, where it is usually more expensive to buy, will become more accessible.

"As soon as a large supply of properties enters the market it becomes a buyers' market. Pfizer employees may have to accept a lot less than what they paid for their properties."

Mr Foster told KoS the impact would also affect rental homes where landlords would have to drop their charges.

"If you can get an executive four-bedroom house for £200 less, no-one is going to pay £200 more," he said.

Mr Foster said another effect could be employees 'downsizing' as a result of highly-skilled workers having to take lower-paid jobs. "This would increase demand at the lower end of the market and this area, up to £250,000, would remain stable – supply and demand would balance out," he said. "It's people with homes priced above who will be most affected.

"Unless a quick solution is reached we could see an exodus of high-paid individuals and an increase in supply of properties for sale or rent; particularly those towns and villages around Sandwich and Canterbury that make up the 'Pfizer corridor'. This is unlikely to result in a wholesale crash. Properties in the area offer great value. East Kent remains a great place to live and work.

"We have high-speed rail, excellent transport links and the Continent is a stone's throw away. We have a fantastic pool of talent and the quality of life is hard to beat. If that cannot attract inward investment, what can?"

Another property expert was not convinced Pfizer's departure would push prices down or have a severe impact on the market. Steve Evans, associate director of Oakwood Homes, which has offices across east Kent, said he believed the market would remain stable. However, he said Pfizer's decision could have an impact on the number of people moving to the area.

"I'm not expecting a large impact on the market in terms of prices – a lot depends on the time frame of the Pfizer situation," he said. "If we're looking at people leaving the area over two or three years, it's probably not going to have a large impact.

"However, people who may have been looking to make an aspirational move to the area for work may reconsider that," he said. "I think this will dampen demand."

Mother's proud tribute to Brett

THE mother of a man who died after a motorbike collision has paid tribute to him.



Brett Roberts (pictured left), 32, was involved in an accident in Leysdown, on the Isle of Sheppey, on August 5, 2010, and died later in hospital. At the closure of an inquest this week, his mother, Lenore, revealed some of Brett's organs had been donated to help others.

She said: "Even now, Brett's heart is still beating. It makes me proud to think his healthy body has helped others.

"His heart was given to a 36-year-old woman who was born with a rare defect. Now she's been discharged from hospital and is no longer on a critical waiting list."

Coroner Roger Sykes recorded a verdict of accidental death.

India adventure awaits cyclists

CYCLISTS have been invited to join a ride through rural Rajasthan in India to support the work of the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Canterbury.

People of all ages and all cycling abilities can join the adventure, from November 3-12.

Training advice will be provided by the organisers. The group will cycle about 400km over five days – both on and off road – and the event finishes with a visit to the Taj Mahal.

Bike India is a major fundraising initiative for the charity which has just been granted planning consent for new premises. The estimated cost of the building is £1 million.

For details, visit www.kentmstc.co.uk or contact Emma or Danielle on 01303 862996.

See info@lifecyclepromotions.co.uk for a registration pack.

Drivers claim a quick victory

A DRIVERS' campaign group is celebrating a possible rise in the motorway speed limit from 70mph to 80mph, claiming it was a victory for motorists.

Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers (ABD), said the organisation had been pushing for an increase for years.

"This is one of the things we have been campaigning for," he said. "Motorways are the fastest and yet safest roads. Most people on motorways drive at 80mph anyway.

"Driving at this speed is what most modern cars are built for."

A spokesman for the Highways Agency, which forms part of the Department for Transport, said the plans formed part of a new road safety strategy which will be considered in May. The 70mph limit was put in place almost 50 years ago. In 2009 there were 2,222 road deaths – 132 on motorways.

Transport secretary Philip Hammond said there needed to be a new set of criteria when looking at speed limits.

The ABD said substantial improvements had been made in vehicle and highway engineering and the widespread lack of compliance with the 70mph limit indicated how outdated it was.

The group also argued the 70mph limit created traffic bunching, poor lane discipline and lack of driver concentration.



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Arsonist, 21, jailed for starting fires in shopping centres



A 21-YEAR-old from Maidstone has been jailed for four years for sparking a series of fires in the town centre.

Luke Robert French, pictured right, of Marigold Way, started fires in the toilets at McDonald's in Week Street, Sainsbury's in Romney Place, and at the Mall shopping centre, all on the morning of April 27 last year.

The fires were all started within two hours of each other and in each case were quickly put out by Kent Fire and Rescue Service. No-one was injured.

French had earlier pleaded guilty to three charges of arson being 'reckless as to whether life was endangered'.

These followed a fire in the toilets at the Forum in Sittingbourne on April 17 and a fire at a bin store in Tarragon Road in Maidstone on April 26.

The judge said an extended sentence was necessary to protect the public from harm.

Det Sgt Darren Ryder, of Kent Police, said he was pleased that the sentence reflected the seriousness of the crimes. He said: "The pace of the investigation that morning was extremely fast-moving. We were trying to catch an arsonist who could well have been intending to start more fires and officers were deployed in our bid to catch him.

"Arson is a serious crime and although no-one was injured in these fires it could so easily have been a different story."

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's investigation and research manager, David Wales, said: "KFRS is pleased that Luke Robert French has been dealt with by the courts and welcomes the four year sentence imposed.

"Arson, on any scale, is a serious crime and those responsible will be dealt with in the appropriate manner by the judicial system."

Grammars 'not a step up ladder'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

WORKING class children are no more likely to climb the social ladder by attending grammar schools instead of comprehensives, new research suggests.

Kent has more grammar schools than any other county in the UK, and is one of only a handful that still operates a selective system.

But using a sample of more than 3,300 adults from across the UK, academics from the universities of Oxford and Bath Spa found that poorer children who attended comprehensives were just as likely as their grammar school equivalents to land better jobs than their parents.

Maidstone resident Rebecca Matthews – chairwoman of the Stop the Eleven Plus campaign group – said the findings of the report came as little surprise.

"It's an interesting piece of research, but the idea that grammar schools provide social mobility is a complete myth anyway," she added.



MYTH: Social mobility is not dependent on attending grammar school, research shows

"The researchers have used data from people who are now in their 50s, so when they went to school the whole country would have been using the selective system that Kent has held on to.

"The situation now is so different because even fewer working class children get to go to grammar school. Tutoring has a hugely significant effect on whether a child passes a test or not, and only middle class people can afford it."

Of the 3,300 people studied in the report, a third had attended comprehensive schools, a quarter had attended grammar schools, and two-fifths had been educated in a secondary modern.

No advantage

The researchers compared the jobs the adults did at the age of 33 with the work their fathers had done 17 years earlier – when the adults were 16 – to see whether they had climbed the social ladder.

All those sampled had sat a test to measure their academic ability at the age of 11.

Co-author Adam Swift said that grammar schools "confer no more advantage" to working-class children than to those from slightly more wealthy backgrounds, which Gravesend-based education expert Peter Read said demonstrated the weakness of the report.

"That is to say both categories do have an advantage," he said. "Why should they give more advantage to one group than the other?

"In fact, those of the sample who went to comprehensive schools were part of the initial wave of comprehensives, before the great abolition of grammar schools which took place in the 1970s and 80s.

"It is self-evident in nearly every wave of educational change that the first into the fray were idealistic and made it work, as this research shows. I wonder if the same results would hold true today."

Last year, a separate report by researchers at the University of Buckingham found that grammar schools were more socially-inclusive than many of the UK's best comprehensives.

It revealed that the highest-scoring comprehensives were far less likely to take their fair share of youngsters from disadvantaged homes than the 164 remaining grammars – 33 of which are in Kent.

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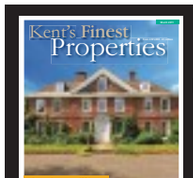
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Tougher controls deter immigrants

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

STRINGENT border controls have driven down the number of illegal immigrants attempting to cross the Channel by two thirds – from 29,383 to 9,735 – in one year.

The decrease is being put down to the use of improved technology in northern French ports and the closure of refugee camps in Calais, sending out a message to would-be migrants that UK borders are closed.

Immigration minister and Ashford MP Damian Green said it had been made increasingly difficult for illegal immigrants to evade border controls and reach Britain.

"While the number of vehicles checked has remained stable at 1.5 million, annually, we have seen fewer attempts to cross the Channel illegally – with 9,700 individuals found last year, compared to just over 29,000 in 2009," he said.

"The increased joint working by the UK Border Agency and the French authorities at the northern French ports continues to ensure the UK's border remains protected."

Over the past five years, up until 2010, the number of illegal immigrants trying to enter the UK by crossing the Channel had risen year on year.

Between 2007 and 2008 a steep rise of almost 11,500 – 17,859 to 29,271 – was seen.

But in 2008 a new force was launched, in the form of the UK Border Agency, which saw HM Revenue and Customs, the Border and Immigration Agency and UK Visas team up to clamp down on immigrants attempting to enter the country illegally. Teams are stationed in Kent, Northern France and Belgium.



SUCCESS: Fewer illegal immigrants are attempting to cross the Channel to the UK

Using state-of-the-art technology, including heartbeat detectors and CO2 probes, officers have been able to detect thousands of illegal immigrants hoping to sneak through the borders.

Passive millimetre wave imaging, which works like an X-ray machine – scanning vehicles and picking out different masses and shading – and sniffer dogs are also used.

At Calais, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry screen every vehicle.

Kent Tory MEP Richard Ashworth praised the tough border controls, saying he was delighted with the reduction in numbers.

"I would like to pay credit to the port authorities, Eurotunnel, the ferry operators and the haulage industry, who have all invested significant amounts of time and money into tackling this problem," he said.

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Gove to re-examine school building plans

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

EDUCATION chiefs have been given until April 11 to spell out the importance of restoring the axed Building Schools for the Future project in Kent.

Last month, Kent County Council defeated the Government in a joint legal action with five other local authorities after proving that Education Secretary Michael Gove failed to consult with them prior to scrapping the scheme last July.

The celebrated £55 billion project was introduced by Labour in 2003, in a bid to improve every secondary school in the country.

Kent's overall programme – the largest building scheme in Europe – was worth an estimated £1.8bn.

Mr Gove has now given the authorities involved in the case until April 11 to provide him with "any and all" information about the axed BSF projects they would like him to reconsider.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "I genuinely believe the Secretary of State is revisiting his decision in a comprehensive fashion, as we have been asked to provide a significant amount of new evidence and documentation.

"We are working with the 14 schools in Gravesham and Thanet that were the most advanced in terms of planning and development, to make sure the submission is as robust as possible. I am much encouraged."

Eleven Kent schools were rebuilt or refurbished through the BSF programme, but 40 others were told last July that the schemes they had been planning would no longer go ahead.



REVIEW: Education chief Michael Gove

The 14 that will be reconsidered by Mr Gove were all 'Wave Four' projects that were at the most advanced stages of planning.

However, in a statement, Mr Gove made clear that he is under no obligation to save any of the schools affected by the removal of funding.

He said: "I will make a decision having considered, with an open mind, all of the information gathered over the consultation period and with due regard to my equalities duties.

"As the judge made clear, the final decision on any given school or project still rests with me and I may save all, some, a few or none." He concluded by saying that "no-one should gain false hope from this decision".

Mr Gove added that he would not be making direct contact with the affected schools.

He said: "Local authorities will want to engage with the schools and will provide the school-level information they consider necessary for me when making my decision."

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By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

PUT TO VOTE: The public are to decide on whether to bid for Dover Port

People back referendum on port plan

A GROUNDBREAKING plan to transfer Dover Port into the hands of the community has taken a giant leap forward after the public voted for a referendum on the issue.

A meeting at Dover Town Hall last Thursday saw standing room only, as residents packed out the building to have a say on the future of the port.

Members of Dover People's Port Trust (DPPT) explained the details of the £200 million purchase bid, and the motion as to whether a referendum should go ahead was passed.

The vote, which will look at whether the port should be transferred into the community's control, will take place within the next 25 days.

Chairman of DPPT Neil Wiggins said he was thrilled with the outcome, and he urged people to turn out for the next vote.

"The result of the referendum is not binding on Government, but if there is a large turnout and strong vote for transferring the port to the community, it will put pressure on them," he said.

Response

"Given their flagship policy of the big society and more power in the community, I think government would find it very hard to ignore such a high level of feeling and response to the People's Port."

DPPT hopes to buy the Port of Dover with a £200m bid.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke, who is behind the proposals, said residents can join the trust for £10. The remainder of the funds would come from City of London institutions.

Rivals Dover Harbour Board (DHB), which has run the port as a trust since 1606, asked the Government in January, 2010, for permission to privatise the asset.

But the move sparked fierce opposition, and plans were drawn up to create a community-owned port which has received widespread support, including backing from forces' sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn.

DHB, however, called the proposals "unrealistic and undeliverable".

A spokeswoman said the board remained convinced its own scheme represented the best and only option for a sustainable and growing port business.

"Properly costed, economically viable and deliverable, we look forward to a positive decision by the minister as we continue to work towards a new and transformational relationship with all our stakeholders," she said.

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Cuts 'hitting future of youth'

A RISE in the number of young people out of work and education is predicted to rise as a result of government spending cuts.

The proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds classed as Neets – Not in Employment, Education or Training – was up at the end of 2010.

A total of 938,000 (15.6 per cent) were in this category last December, the highest final-quarter figure since 2005.

But while the Government has admitted the figure is "still too high", critics claim the situation will not improve while funding for youth services continues to be cut.

"Since the election we've seen a move towards attacking young people," said Kent Youth County Council chairman Dara Farrell.

"Sure Start centres, the Education Maintenance Allowance and the Future Jobs Fund are all being cut, and the effects these decisions are having on young people are already starting to tell. We need long-term support for those classed as Neet."

Last month the youth unemployment rate reached 20.5 per cent – the highest since comparable records began in 1992.

In Medway, the proportion of 16-20-year-olds classed as Neet stands at about seven per cent.

John Paton, business manager of the Medway Youth Trust branch of Connexions, said the young people's advice service should be given extra funding so it can also target those aged 20-24.

The Coalition says it plans to tackle the rise in Neets by funding 75,000 extra adult apprenticeship places, as well as offering a new work programme to provide "personalised support and training to help unemployed young people into work".

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ENTRY POINT: Children as young as 12 can travel unaccompanied on Eurostar trains

Call to check on children entering UK

VULNERABLE children are entering the UK on Kent's high-speed rail network before being forced into slavery or prostitution, ***writes Steve Knight***.

That was the worrying claim made by London Assembly chairwoman Baroness Dee Doocey, who says the failure to carry out welfare checks at Ashford, Ebbsfleet and St Pancras stations is putting unaccompanied minors at risk of serious harm.

Children as young as 12 can travel unaccompanied on Eurostar trains, and need only a letter from their parents or guardians to pass through border controls in France and Belgium.

However, Baroness Doocey told KoS there was no system in place to check the authenticity of the letters.

"I do think there should be extra staff (at Kent stations) to deal with this sort of thing," she said.

"In 2003 the Metropolitan Police set up a superb team at Heathrow airport consisting of dedicated child protection workers, and in the first three months they intercepted 1,800 unaccompanied minors – a third of whom were deemed to be vulnerable.

"But now the traffickers are moving elsewhere, so we've got to make sure that we secure every location."

The Lib Dem peer quizzed Earl John Attlee – the Conservatives' immigration spokesman in the House of Lords – on the issue of child trafficking during a debate on Monday.

She was told there was no need for a specific team at St Pancras because the necessary checks were carried out by Border Agency officials in France and Belgium.

But Baroness Doocey, who was made a life peer last December, told KoS she was less than satisfied with the response.

"I was quite disappointed because I didn't really think he had taken on board the seriousness of the situation," she said.

"Only if a Border Agency officer sees a child wandering around looking lost at St Pancras will he call on a specialist, but then if you're a child trafficker you're obviously not going to let that happen.

Prostitution

"It's very worrying, because children are being brought into this country to serve as domestic slaves, for benefit fraud, and also prostitution. It's a huge problem."

A spokeswoman for the UK Border Agency confirmed that all passengers arriving at Ashford or Ebbsfleet will have been cleared for immigration purposes at controls in France and Belgium.

She added: "If there was any suspicion that a child arriving in the UK was at risk, the agency would refer to the appropriate authorities.

"Keeping Britain's border secure is a priority for the Government, which is why it is crucial we have vigilant border staff utilising the latest technology in our fight against the people traffickers, drug smugglers and illegal immigrants determined to come here and cause harm."

Eurostar declined to comment.



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KCC denies ignoring rules over job cut discrimination

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT County Council has rejected claims it could face a string of legal challenges by failing to observe redundancy-related equality laws.

Ahead of a planned reduction of 1,500 workers over the next three to four years, the authority has been accused of failing to complete equality impact assessments (EIAs) to ensure women, disabled people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds are not unfairly targeted.

The public sector union Unison says councils like KCC are "flouting the rules" and failing to assess the true impact of the job cuts.

However, the authority says it is unable to carry out EIAs on the majority of workers because detailed job loss plans have yet to be drawn up.

A spokesman added: "For the recent changes to the senior level of managers at KCC, equality impact assessments were carried out. They will continue to be part of the process as the restructure is implemented.

"While we expect to lose some posts, redundancies will be kept to a minimum through natural wastage of retirement, voluntary redundancies and by not filling all vacant posts as people leave."

Under equality laws, councils must give 'due regard' to equality when making decisions. Completing EIAs is one of the key ways to do this.

KCC revealed in January that it must save £95 million in the next financial year, partly due to a 10 per cent cut – or £58m – in the amount of funding it receives from the Government.

As part of the research conducted by Unison, the council was listed alongside 179 other local authorities that have yet to complete EIAs on their at-risk workers.

Unison head of local government Heather Wakefield said: "Councils are duty-bound to make sure job cuts do not have a disproportionate impact on women, workers with disabilities or ethnic minority staff.

"But this survey shows they are flouting the rules and ploughing ahead with heavy job cuts regardless.

"Councils should put the brakes on and take a closer look at the effect of job cuts, because there's a real chance that heavy job losses will fall disproportionately on to these groups.

"There's growing proof that the Tory-led Government's actions are bad for women and bad for equality, but it's easy street for the party's beloved bankers.

"In the 100 years since the first International Women's Day, great strides towards fairness have been taken.

"But this hard-won progress must not be sacrificed to pay for the recession."

MP warns against military action

A KENT MP has called for humanitarian aid for Libya, but has warned against the UK starting military action to oust Colonel Gaddafi, pictured.



Canterbury MP Julian Brazier told the Commons and Foreign Secretary William Hague: "Humanitarian aid backed by military means is very unlikely to be seen in that way by the protagonists in a civil war."

Mr Brazier later added: "The Government has made it clear that Colonel Gaddafi must go. Throughout the crises in Egypt and Tunisia, the UK Government has been careful to say the people of these countries must own the solution. In the case of Libya, the people have risen up against Colonel Gaddafi.

"The aid effort should be led by leading humanitarian organisations from across the world. Aid supported by military means would risk drawing us into another major war."

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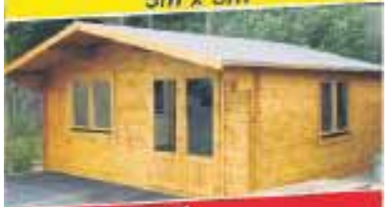
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A FAITHFUL replica of the first Spitfire prototype was on display at the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel-le-Ferne at the weekend.

It was built in memory of the designer of the legendary aircraft – Reginald J Mitchell – and formed part of a weekend of celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the first flight of the prototype.

The first flight of the original plane was on March 5, 1936, when Captain Joseph 'Mutt' Summers took the controls.

The replica of K5054 was built in 1984 by former employees of the Supermarine company, which constructed Spitfires.

They worked in response to an Air Ministry request for an eight-gun fighter with retractable undercarriage and an enclosed cockpit, made in 1925.

The design was based on the seaplanes which took part in the Schneider Trophy race. About 22,000 of the legendary warplane in four variants were constructed during World War Two.

Since then it has become an icon of aviation history.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust worked with the Spitfire Society and Action Stations! to bring the replica to Capel from its normal home at Tangmere Aviation Museum.

At the weekend, visitors were able to fly in a helicopter alongside a Spitfire, which overflew the memorial, performing victory roll aerobatics.

The fighter also flew along the White Cliffs.

Action Stations! also flew two celebrities alongside Spitfire BM5497.

John Challis, who played the role of Boycie in TV's Only Fools and Horses, and broadcaster Michael Aspel successfully bid for the experience of flying alongside a Spitfire in an auction to raise funds for the memorial.

The memorial trust, which is planning a learning centre for young people, is also selling three-bladed propeller badges in gold, similar to those which were given to veterans of the Battle of Britain, priced at £5.

Army gets the Afghans' goat

CANTERBURY-based soldiers are helping Afghan farmers by teaching them how to look after animals, ***writes Nick Ames***.

The troops are responsible for maintaining security in part of Helmand Province, but took time out from their security duties to help farmers protect their livelihoods.

Troops from Delta Company of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland organised the Veterinary Teaching Initiative.

It took place at the headquarters of the 2nd Kandak, Afghan National Police, which is beside Delta Company's home of Patrol Base Attal, east of Helmand's provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

Captain Joanna Lowe, of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, spent time educating Afghans on better ways to carry out animal husbandry.

The event, the first of its kind by Delta Company during its seven-month tour in Helmand, was attended by more than 160 people over two days.



EDUCATION: Lieutenant Ed Challis with a goat

Picture: CROWN COPYRIGHT

Captain Lowe and local ANP commander Colonel Abdul Sattar Noorzai spoke on Radio Nahr-e Saraj, which transmits from Patrol Base Attal, on both evenings.

They fielded veterinary questions from farmers who telephoned the radio station with enquires about how best to look after the animals in their care.

Captain Lowe said: "The aim of these two days was to educate the local people on modern methods of animal husbandry practices and medical care.

"This knowledge will help to make them more self-reliant and also help to improve their livelihoods."

Colonel Sattar Noorzai said: "This kind of education is important for improving life for the people. I have emphasised how beneficial this is on the local radio station so future events will see even more people attend."

Delta Company is partnered with the Afghan National Police, protecting the people of Lashkar Gah district and ensuring they have a responsible police force.

The troop also assists the ANP in gathering information on insurgents in the area and conducts operations to ensure the insurgents are unable to impact on the daily life of the people.

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Marlowe to preview West End hit shows

By **CHRIS BRITCHER**

chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

THEATRE chiefs have unveiled the line-up for the first season at the new multi-million pound state-of-the-art Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

And it includes a pre-West End preview of what is expected to be one of musical theatre's big hits, and the world premiere of a major new dance production.

What's more, the traditionally hugely-popular pantomime is set to be one of the biggest and best yet, with an enhanced budget, a big-name cast due to be confirmed soon, and the ambition to be the best in the South East.

Theatre director Mark Everett revealed the line-up this week and said: "Now we're back in business. After all the preparation, now we're back putting on shows, promoting them and selling tickets. It feels good to be back.

"There are at least two shows in the opening season which, without the new Marlowe, we simply would not have been able to stage.

"The old theatre could seat about 950. The new one will be 1,200. What we've noticed as a result is a rise in the attention level we are commanding from theatre productions both at home and abroad."

A star-studded Gala Opening is due to take place on October 4, although Mr Everett remained tight-lipped over who will be performing.

The theatre's opening weekend will see two days of family fun on October 8-9, before the serious business of major productions get under way.

In addition to the main auditorium there will be the Marlowe Studio, which will seat about 150 and host a variety of smaller performances and exhibitions.



Among the first shows unveiled this week were Alan Bennett's royal drama The Madness of George III, the Northern Ballet's The Nutcracker, and Top Hat – a lavish new version of the classic Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movie from the 1930s.

It will be performed at the theatre as it prepares for what it hopes will be a long run in London's West End.

It stars Holby City and Strictly Come Dancing star Tom Chambers, and Hollyoaks actress Summer Strallen.

Mr Everett added: "Not in a million years would be have been able to get this sort of performance before. It is only going to five venues in the UK before the West End and it will be here for two weeks. We're delighted."

But for many it will be the return of the pantomime to the city centre which will provide the biggest cheer.

Cinderella will run from December 2 to January 22 – once again produced by the husband and wife team of Emily Wood and Paul Hendy.

Mr Hendy explained: "The way the seating is arranged in the new theatre will be perfect for pantomime.

"Before it was so difficult to reach those at the back of the venue. Now everyone is that little bit closer."

Tickets for the first shows go on sale to the Friends of the Marlowe on Monday. The 6,500 members will have priority booking for the shows before the general public can snap them up on April 11.



BIGGER SHOWS: The new Marlowe Theatre can accommodate productions like Top Hat, starring Tom Chambers and Summer Strallen, above

Picture: KEITH WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS

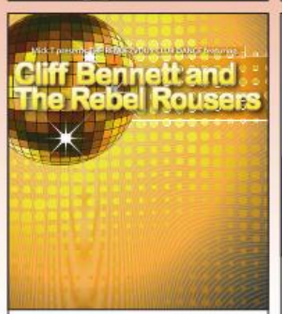
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In association with Contour

THE Kent Game and Equine Festival is one of the first of the great regional game fairs of the year, and is set to return on March 26-27, 2011, at the Kent Showground, Detling.

This event, which is open from 10am to 4pm on both days, is regularly attended by more than 10,000 visitors.

The show is a celebration of countryside life from fishing and shooting to traditional crafts and locally produced food; and with an exciting array of equestrian entertainment and education, the show offers visitors the ultimate countryside experience.

And you can join the crowds for free as we have 10 family tickets – two adults and children – worth £26 each, to be won.

The indoor Supreme Equine Arena will feature international show jumpers Graham and Tina Fletcher, a native stallion parade, and a sports and competition stallion parade together with a fun and fast-paced Pony Club Horse and Hound show.

If your interest is in fishing, then be prepared for a treat, as Britain's most famous fisherman, Charles Jardine will be demonstrating his skills and offering coaching.





Charles has a passion for cooking and based on the 'catch it and cook theme' will be demonstrating a fabulous Fisherman's Lunch – Food fit for Fishers in the Game Cookery theatre.

There will be much on offer for dog lovers, including the British Association for Shooting and Conservation running four gundog scurries, advice from the Gundog Clinic, terrier and lurcher shows, and a dog crèche on site.

The show's other features will include an on-site clay shoot, a shooting school, air-rifle coaching, archery, falconry, racing ferrets, vintage tractors and machinery, and the game cookery theatre.

There will also be a countryside and equestrian shopping village with more than 100 retail outlets.

Discounted advance tickets are available by visiting www.contour.uk.net or calling 01749 813899.

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket just answer this question:

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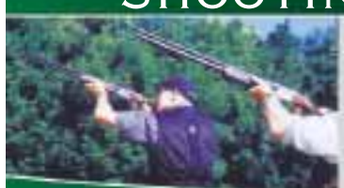
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Mandarin lessons boost for toddlers

By **JILL HURST**

jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

CHILDREN as young as two years old are being taught to speak Mandarin at a nursery.

Little Learners, based in Loose, Maidstone, is providing Chinese language tuition to 17 children aged between two and five.

Manager Hayley Oliver said the choice of language was based on the growing need for Chinese speakers from the western world combined with an interesting and vibrant culture.

"China is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and will play a big part in the future lives of our children," she said.

"Many schools offer German, French or Spanish, but we feel Mandarin has a lot to offer.

"It's important for children to speak a second language and the younger they start, the easier it is to pick up. At nursery age children's brains are like a sponge, ready to soak everything up."

A native Mandarin speaker visits the nursery for two hours each week, making use of an array of visual props and aids to stimulate the children's interest.

Mrs Oliver said: "We use all sorts of visual aids including posters, teddies, books and an abacus to help them to learn to count."

According to Mrs Oliver, most of the children already have the basics including counting to six and saying 'hello' and 'goodbye'.





EARLY START: Pupils are also learning about Chinese culture

The nursery has also embraced the Chinese culture, celebrating New Year and the country's zodiac system, which relates each year to an animal.

Mrs Oliver, a former teacher, says the lessons will prove invaluable to the children when they progress through the New Line Learning Academy, which features Mandarin on its teaching syllabus.

China is now home to one of the world's most important economies and more people speak Chinese than any other language in the world.

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Exhibitors buoyed as holiday fever hits Archant KOS Media's ever-popular event

'Phenomenal' response as crowds flock to show



CROWD-PLEASER: Dover Cruise Terminal hosted the fourth Archant KOS Media Travel and Leisure Show which was attended by thousands eager to plan their holiday or day trips





THOUSANDS of people turned out for Archant KOS Media's celebrated Travel and Leisure Show, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

For a fourth year running Dover Cruise Terminal was packed out as people flocked to the annual event on Sunday to plan a holiday or day trip with advice from leading travel companies and groups.

Visitors were treated to presentations from industry experts as well as information from a French contingent who took part in the show for the first time since it launched in 2007.

Guests were also in with a chance of winning from one of more than 100 top prizes including a two-week cruise courtesy of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines and weekend breaks in the UK or France.

Fabulous

Other prizes included entry to some of the county's most popular attractions and dinner at a selection of top French restaurants.

Tickets for West End musical Les Miserables, overnight stays at leading hotels and B&Bs, and falconry lessons at Quex Park in Birchington were also up for grabs.

The winners will be notified shortly.

KOS Media events manager Liz Hare said the show was "phenomenal".

"Exhibitors were saying it was even better than last year and some were already talking about coming to next year's show," she said.

"It was so busy that at one point someone said it was busier than a lot of the London shows. "For the Fred. Olsen presentation it was standing room only. We were trying to squeeze people through the door.

"The Lullingstone Castle presentation went really well too – people came out saying how fabulous the speaker was and that they could have listened to him all day.

"I'm so pleased. It was even better than expected."

The show coincided with the start of British Tourism Week which aims to raise awareness of the importance of Britain's visitor economy.



LADIES IN WAITING: Many of the county's attractions came up with novel ways of attracting visitors to the popular show

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Project to revive tower

By **MATHEW BEECH**

mathew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

A PROJECT charting the history of the county is looking for people who remember a curious religious landmark.

The Kent Cultural Baton, which has been travelling through Kent, is heading to Gillingham and is looking for residents who remember Jezreel's Tower.

The building, which stood on the A2 at Chatham Hill, is the latest focus for the project, which has been recording stories as part of the cultural celebrations in the build-up to the 2012 Olympics.

Residents who remember the landmark building are invited to visit Gillingham Pier for the Party on the Pier celebrations this Saturday, to share their memories.

The Kent Cultural Baton is working with artist Simon Barker, who is making a film about the cubic temple built in 1885.

The building was being used as a storage facility for the Co-Operative when it was demolished in 1961, and the last remaining building associated with Jezreel's Tower, in Canterbury Street, was razed to the ground in late 2008.

Jezreel's Tower was built by James Jershom Jezreel, formally known as James Roland White. He joined and took over a small branch of the Christian Israelites religious sect in 1814.



Picture: CUNNINGHAM

JEZREELS: How the tower looked in 1910

Once he had completed his military service in 1881, White, now using the name Jezreel, decided his church needed a headquarters and a temple, which was to be built on Chatham Hill – the area's highest point.

The design was inspired by Revelation XXI, 16: "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length thereof is as great as the breadth … the length and the breadth and the height thereof are equal."

Inspired by this, Jezreel wanted to create a perfect cube, with sides 144ft long, but was persuaded by architects to create the building with a 124ft square base and a height of 120ft.

The tower was finished with yellow bricks and eight castellated towers.

Engraved on to the outside of the tower were a trumpet and flying roll, crossed swords of the spirit and the Prince of Wales feathers, representing the Trinity.

The architectural oddity is one of 26 landmark buildings featured in a new book examining British eccentricity, David McKie's Bright Particular Stars: A Gallery of Glorious British Eccentrics.

Following Jezreel's death in 1885, his wife took over control of the sect and the building project, but this came to an end in 1888, when she also died. The unfinished building was put up for sale in 1897 and failed to find a buyer for six years.

Members of the Jezreelites continued to rent parts of the building, but in 1905, they fell behind with the rent and the tower's owners repossessed it.

The holding company began the demolition of the tower in this year, but when the contractors went bankrupt, the tower remained derelict until 1961, when it was demolished.

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Award for Trust

NHS doctors, nurses, managers and other health professionals in east Kent have been awarded a certificate naming them trust of the year.

Dr Foster, which provides an annual guide to hospitals, found East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust the best performing nationally.

The organisation measures healthcare across a range of areas that are important to patients on behalf of the Government.

These include quality of life for people with long-term conditions, preventing premature death, helping people recover, a positive experience of care and a safe environment.

EKHT, which runs hospitals including the William Harvey in Ashford, the QEQM in Margate, and the Kent and Canterbury, was named trust of the year 2010.

Chairman Nicholas Wells said: "Being named the best performing trust in the country is a great accolade for our staff although we must not become complacent, but push the boundaries of patient care at all times."

HOW do you want your town, city or county to look over the next decade?

An initiative by Kent County Council is asking everyone to have their say in how public spaces and frontages should look for any new work carried out in the future.

Accessibility for everyone is a big part of the request for public views which will be used to guide developers and planning consultants as well as councils which grant planning permission.

Your views will be part of a new document called Inclusive Design and Placemaking, which will set out design guidelines and criteria to ensure future development takes account of the needs of people – such as parents with prams, the elderly and those with visual impairments or mobility problems – who might have difficulty entering shops, offices, homes or public spaces.

You can comment online at www.kent.gov.uk/inclusivedesignandplacemaking.

Printed copies are available at all libraries, Gateways and County Hall in Maidstone, for five weeks.

Martin off to Afghanistan

AFGHAN police will receive training on how to deal with firearms incidents from a senior Kent officer.

Chief Inspector Martin Cunningham, pictured right, will also teach the force how to better handle other major incidents and emergencies during his year-long secondment in Kabul.



"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I'm really looking forward to it," he said.

"It's a new post so there's a lot of pressure and scrutiny, but it's an exciting opportunity to put my stamp on something unique and historic."

CI Cunningham will join up with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan, with his secondment managed through the UK Government's stabilisation unit.

He will design and deliver bespoke products to help train senior Afghan police and support staff in command, control and communication.

"I'm enthusiastic about passing my knowledge and skills on to others and I thrive when working in challenging roles and environments," said CI Cunningham.

"I know I can't change the world, but I like to think I can make a positive difference in some small way, and in doing so I hope to change the lives of some people for the better."

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NO THANKS: Cllr Susan Carey receives the petition from Margaret Ludlow and Ronald Lello

Sink over sludge plant

A PETITION opposing plans for a waste treatment plant has been signed by almost everyone in a village, ***writes Mathew Beech***.

A staggering 96 per cent of those living in Sellindge have put their name to the petition calling for plans for a recycling facility proposed by the Country Style Group.

It includes an anaerobic digestion plant, which breaks waste down into a sludge. The gases can be used for energy, and the sludge is then spread on fields as a 'soil improver'.

Kent County Council's councillor Susan Carey was presented with the petition against the plant proposed for the Otterpool Quarry site, outside Ashford, just off the A20 and close to the Airport Café.

Cllr Carey said: "I want this matter to be settled, because it has been a blight over the village for three years. I blame Country Style for this, because they have persisted with this application in the face of strong opposition from the village."

The waste treatment site would handle up to 95,000 tonnes of commercial waste from Ashford, Dover and Shepway, with more than 160 lorries visiting the site daily.

Chairman of the Sellindge and District Residents' Association, Ronald Lello, said: "More than 96 per cent of the villagers have signed the petition and it expresses how strongly we feel about the plant being situated right in the middle of the countryside."

The three-year dispute has put pressure on the owners of the Airport Café.

Julie Green said: "This has been a café since 1932 and it has been in the family since 1957. I've put everything into it and for that to be taken away would be heartbreaking."

The planning application for the site is likely to be heard at County Hall in Maidstone on Tuesday, March 15.

No-one from Country Style was available for comment.

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Post Office staff vote for strike

POST Office clerks have voted to go on strike in a dispute over pay and job security, ***writes Steve Knight.***

The industrial action, which could take place this month, affects about 100 Kent counter staff in Crown branches as opposed to privately-run sub-post offices or franchises such as WH Smith.

About 95 per cent of the county's workers voted in favour of going on strike when they were balloted by the Communication Workers' Union last week.

The union says members have been denied a pay rise for the third year running, despite increased profits at Post Office Ltd (POL) of £72 million last year, with managers winning a 2.25 per cent raise and directors an extra 21 per cent in pay and benefits.

"POL is showing callous indifference to the work and living standards of hard-working counter staff," said CWU representative for Kent, Mole Meade.

"I'm optimistic we won't have to go ahead with the strike. It would be foolhardy to not get back round the table and discuss a meaningful pay rise for people who haven't had one for three years."

Guarantee

The Kent counter staff were among 4,000 CWU members across 373 offices nationwide who were asked to vote for or against industrial action. The union claims POL is also refusing to extend a guarantee on the number of Crown offices – which provide a full range of services including tax discs and passports – which it says implies further closures are planned.

CWU deputy general secretary Dave Ward said: "This is about more than pay. The job security of members and future of the Crown office network is also at stake.

"We want a strong network of Crown offices, but the Government and the company appear to be hiding the fact that they are planning a programme of further closures.

"Given the lack of support from Government, we fear for the future of the network."

According to POL, the Crown office network is losing £55 million a year and cannot afford to offer counter staff a pay rise.

A spokesman said: "Post Office is disappointed that staff have voted in favour of strike action.

"Ninety-seven per cent of Post Offices are run by sub-postmasters and will be unaffected by any industrial action.

"Deliveries are also unaffected by this ballot result."

Chimney warning

THE cold snap has seen an increase in chimney fires as residents turn to open fires and wood-burning stoves.

Firefighters issued safety advice, urging people to ensure chimneys are swept to prevent a build-up of soot and residue.

Crews attended 13 chimney fires throughout the county in the last week. Blazes broke out in Pembury, Sissinghurst, Paddock Wood, Edenbridge, Headcorn and Langton Green.

A fire service official said: "It has been a long, cold winter and we urge those with open fires and wood-burning stoves to get chimneys swept and flues checked."

There were also fires in Ashford, East Malling and Upnor. In the east of the county, firefighters attended calls in Westgate, Sandgate, Whitstable and Ramsgate.

MILLIONS of bugs will help make the River Medway cleaner than ever. The bugs are part of an upgrade at Ham Hill wastewater treatment works in Snodland, and eat away at contaminants, such as ammonia.

The bugs grow inside 22-metre diameter tanks, which the wastewater trickles through during the final treatment stage.

About 12 million litres of wastewater flow through Ham Hill treatment works each day in dry weather, rising to 30 million litres a day in wet weather.

TO CELEBRATE the Year of the Pier, artists with studios on Margate's harbour arm are hosting events this weekend.

Party on the Pier opens at 10am on Saturday, when an Illustrated History of the Pier will be followed by a tug-of-war.

In the afternoon, Robert Poulter and his New Model Theatre will perform Merry Margate – 250 years of history in 30 minutes, at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. There will be activities in the gallery, plus a window dressing contest in the Old Town. Sunday starts with keep fit at 11am, Seaside Singalong will be at 4pm, followed by belly-dancing.

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‘Help us find the man who killed our father’

By **JILL HURST**

jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

THE DEVASTATED family of a man killed by a single punch, say they know the identity of his killer and have appealed to the community to help bring him to justice.

Police fear it is only a matter of time before the “violent thug” hurts someone again. However, frustrated officers do not have enough evidence make a charge.

Adrian Milner, 48, was punched in the face as he left the New Inn pub and headed home with friend Michael Coomber along Church Road, Murston, just before 8pm on Tuesday, December 28, 2010.

The force of the punch caused him to fall to the floor and he hit the back of his head. He was taken to a neurological hospital in London, but doctors were unable to save the father of two. He died on Sunday, January 9.

Andy Clarke was Mr Milner’s best friend for more than 40 years. He said: “We know who did this and we are absolutely positive people close to the person responsible know he did it.

“We appeal to them to come forward before he does it again. Please help us to find some sort of closure and see justice done.”

Mr Milner’s family, including partner Gemma Stuttard, are still struggling to come to terms with what has happened.

Speaking to Adrian’s killer, Gemma pleaded: “Do the right thing and hand yourself in.”

And to those who may have information she added: “No matter how small or irrelevant you may think the information is, please come forward.”

Gemma was set to marry Mr Milner, but must now accept this will never happen.

She said: “Someone has played God. It was a random attack and until whoever did this is caught, we will never know exactly what happened.

“Please put yourself in our shoes. We’ve had someone really special taken from us. It was so needless and we need to know.”



MURDER: Adrian with Gemma and Molly, and right, the two men police want to talk to



Police say they are “committed” to finding Mr Milner’s killer who they believe is a local man.

Det Insp Lee Whitehead said: “This was a cowardly attack on two vulnerable men who were easy prey. They’d been to the pub, had a few pints, a good time, and were walking home. The attack left two sons and a step-daughter without a father.

“Whoever did this is a violent thug. And it is likely he is just as violent at home.

“It may be that someone is in a violent relationship and is frightened to come forward. We would say, in the long term, by coming forward you will be protecting your family and helping to see justice done. I want to offer reassurance we will be discreet in our enquiries, and offer full witness protection.”

Mr Milner lived with Gemma and her 11-year old daughter Molly, and grown-up sons Joshua and Jason. The sons said: “We are devastated to have lost our dad. The void left by him can never be filled.”

Molly added: “He was a lovely caring man who made me laugh and never told me off.”

Mr Milner’s brother Duncan said: “Adrian was extremely popular and his death has had a lot of impact. He had a wide circle of friends in all walks of life. It’s still such a shock.

“If someone was brought to justice his death might be easier to accept.”

Police have released a CCTV image of two men they would like to speak to.

• A 35-year-old man bailed in connection with the investigation has been released without charge. A 30-year-old Sittingbourne man remains on police bail.

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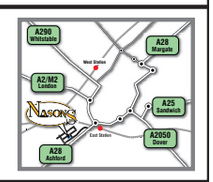

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School trips 'at risk from cuts'

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

ENGLISH Heritage has launched a Save our School Trips campaign, to stop the ailing tradition becoming another casualty of the downturn.

It follows a 14 per cent drop in the number of class excursions to Kent's historic sites over the last four years, caused by schools being unable to justify transport costs, and teachers' concerns over the "risk assessment culture".

According to research by English Heritage, 94 per cent of teachers support school trips as a valuable tool to enrich topics covered in the classroom, but three quarters see transport expenses as one of the main obstacles.

This could mean a generation of children missing out on the memorable experience of excursions and the knowledge they bring.

In a bid to save the age-old school trip English Heritage is offering 50 per cent towards transport costs to one of its historic sites in Kent, for the first three learning groups to book a visit.

The offer includes Dover, Deal and Walmer castles; Down House – the home of Charles Darwin – near Orpington; and one of the country's most important Roman villas, at Lullingstone, near Dartford.

Fran Lashmar, English Heritage education manager for the South East, said she believed missing out on school trips would have a negative effect on education.

"This isn't just in history, but art, drama, geography and across the whole curriculum," she said.

"Ninety per cent of us will remember more through active learning; it allows students of all abilities to put their studies into context in a way simply not possible in the classroom.

"Our heritage is for everyone, and we see offering schools free access to our sites as the way to break down stereotypical barriers for those students who would not normally have the opportunity to visit.

"For some children, this is the only chance they have to see these places where their families don't see visiting a monument as a first priority."

English Heritage offers full support for teachers on educational visits, with free resources on the group's website as well as free access to the sites.

Funding cuts

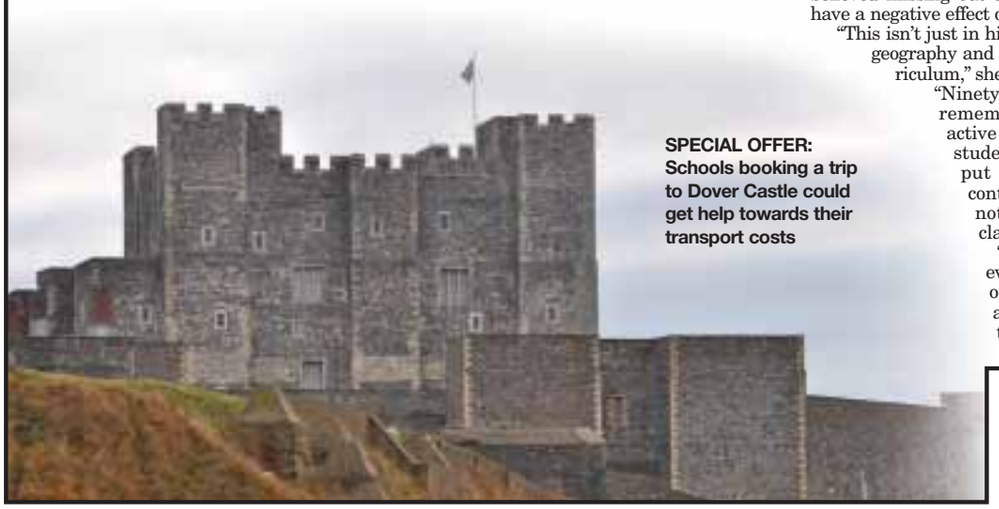
Ms Lashmar said with the new campaign some schools will now also be able to save money on transport costs, which can often reach hundreds of pounds.

"Teachers and schools are under so much pressure," she said. "They lost the Building Schools for the Future funding and there are other cuts being made through back door.

"The risk assessment culture we have now also makes it harder."

To be in with a chance of receiving 50 per cent towards transport costs for an educational visit, go to www.services.english-heritage.org.uk/educationbookings and quote the code SOST March 2011.

The deadline for applications is Friday, March 18.



SPECIAL OFFER: Schools booking a trip to Dover Castle could get help towards their transport costs

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a woman in her 30s was killed on the M20.

The woman was on the carriageway and died after she was hit by a passing vehicle.

It is not yet clear how the woman came to be on the motorway.

Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit is continuing to appeal for witnesses following the incident that took place at about 8.20pm on Sunday, just south of junction 10 at Ashford.

All three lanes were closed between junction 10 and 11 while investigators were at the scene. The motorway was re-opened at about 7am on Monday.

Sunlight sparks blaze at home

A DOG and cat had to be rescued from a burning building after a bizarre blaze was sparked in Gillingham.

Fire crews sent to put out the flames on Monday afternoon believe it was started when sunlight reflected by a vanity mirror caused clothing to catch light.

Two engines from Medway Fire Station were sent to tackle the incident at about 2.15pm after neighbours heard a smoke alarm and saw smoke coming from the house.

Crews tackle the blaze in a first-floor bedroom and rescued the pets from the property. The fire was extinguished within half an hour, damaging to 20 per cent of the room.

Crew manager Nina Batsford said: "It appears that sun through the window had been reflected on to clothing and caused a fire. Fortunately the smoke alarm alerted neighbours so we were able to prevent major damage.

"It's a good reminder to people to think carefully about where they place mirrors."







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Call to tackle HGV blind spot dangers

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN aimed at reducing the number of crashes caused by HGVs has received strong backing from Europe.

Some 323 MEPs signed a declaration calling on the European Commission to review old laws they claim fail to tackle problems with lorry drivers' blind spots, which has led to hundreds of fatalities on the roads.

It comes in response to the national Save Me See Me campaign, which was launched by the family of 30-year-old Eilidh Cairns, who was killed in 2009 after being hit by a lorry in London on her way to work.

The campaign is pushing for mandatory cameras and sensors to be placed on lorries to improve drivers' visibility.

Kent MEP Peter Skinner has thrown his weight behind the campaign, stressing the problem in the county was particularly bad, especially around ports and areas with a large number of cyclists.

He said: "This excellent campaign heightens the pressure on law-makers in Brussels to look again at how we can prevent these needless tragedies.

"By fitting lorries with sensors, cameras and better brakes, cyclists and pedestrians will become more visible and drivers will be able to react more quickly in an emergency.

"The majority of lorry drivers want to be as safe as possible. Blind spots not only affect the safety of other road users, but their safety as well. When it comes to saving lives, making the streets safer for all road users must be a top priority."

Thousands of lorries travel on Kent's roads every day, particularly on the M20 and M2, with the Port of Dover handling 1.8 million every year.

Two years ago, 58-year-old Pierre Foulkes, a port worker from Deal, was killed outside the eastern docks in a collision with an HGV while on his bicycle.







TRAGEDIES: Cyclists Eilidh Cairns (left) and Pierre Foulkes (right) may have been saved if lorries had been fitted with cameras and sensors

The same year a two-year-old boy was seriously injured when his buggy was struck by a lorry in St Peter's Road, Margate.

His sister, aged eight, and 58-year-old grandmother were also injured.

An investigation is also under way into the death of a female driver in a collision involving a lorry in Cranbrook last month.

Kate Cairns, the sister of Eilidh, said if measures such as cameras and sensors were compulsory there would be a reduction in the number of fatalities.

"This isn't just a local problem, this is an international problem, but a simple thing such as installing cameras would help," she said.

"Eilidh was familiar with her route to work and an experienced and strong cyclist. But there was an incident and she [still] ended up under the wheels of a truck.

"These trucks are lethal to. The drivers are isolated in their cabs with massive blind spots all around them, not just on the left-hand side.

"These cameras are essential – they would feed information to the driver automatically."

Miss Cairns said she believed had the cameras been in place in her sister's case there may have been a different outcome.

Mr Skinner added: "The issue of HGV blind spots is particularly important to many people living in the South East."

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LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Sickened by free lunches

I was incensed to read that Kent's county councillors had voted to retain their free lunches during full council meetings, at a cost of £12.50 a head.

This costs a total of £1,050 for each meeting, or £7,350 for the seven meetings held in a year. They say the freebies are crucial to the "social atmosphere" of their meetings. This is at a time when they will be making budget cuts of millions of pounds and axing 1,500 jobs.

I find it disgusting that they feel they are justified in spending an amount on seven days' lunches. That is more than a lot of pensioners have to live on for a year.

To say that it is crucial to the social atmosphere is an insult to council taxpayers. We are not paying for them to socialise, but to provide good services for the best value. The story also says councillors already get an allowance to cover meals, so surely they should pay for their own lunches out of that.

W Mayes, Queenborough

Party to show Kentish pride

The day of the royal wedding, April 29, is a public holiday and there will be no school that day.

The weather should be warm enough for street celebrations.

This is a once-in-a-generation event. The entire length of Kent's pedestrianised streets should be given over to parties.

It will be fun for the children, but also a wonderful opportunity to publicise tourist sites, attract visitors and sell goods on the day. We could get children up to the age of 13 seated, and older children can serve the younger ones. For this to work, there will need to be sponsors to donate food and drinks; organisations to lend chairs and tables; volunteers to organise; buses to be diverted; parking to be laid on.

All local politicans and organisations should pull together on this one. Get a street party licence and forge ahead with it.

Let's show the country what Kent can do. As a boy who waved a Union flag at the Queen on Coronation Day, I would like this very much.

Geoffrey Clark, secretary Ukip, Dartford and Gravesham

Charity should begin at home

When will our leaders face up to the fact that with all the cuts we are having to endure we will soon be poorer than the countries we give foreign aid to.

It's about time somebody in the Government realised that if we stopped foreign aid for a year Britain would be out of debt. Why do we have to suffer? Surely looking after one's own country should be the first priority? I don't think anybody could argue against that.

John R O'Neon, by email

OPINION: BUOYED BY THE FIGHTBACK

UK Independence Party leader **NIGEL FARAGE** says EU fishing policy is still dead in the water, despite the promised changes on scandalous 'discards'

ONE of the greatest betrayals on joining the EEC in 1973 was towards the British fishing industry. Our fishermen, over the years, have have had to cope with a quota system arbitrarily imposed by Brussels in the name of 'conservation'.

The European Union's own estimate is that 40 per cent of all fish caught is dumped – dead – back into the sea. Over a million tonnes a year of fish wasted, while across the world we have starvation and in this country we have a fishing industry on the brink of destruction.



From a traditional, buoyant and healthy industry managing some of the richest fishing grounds in the world, UK fishing and associated industries have been devastated by the EU's Common Fisheries Policy; its fishing fleets deliberately and methodically destroyed, its ports and related support structures turned into ghost ports, with British coastal waters now just part of the 'common' waters. We can map this decline in Kent with our own once-thriving fishing towns of Dover, Folkestone, Dungeness and Ramsgate among the many whose townsfolk relied on the sea.

British fishermen numbered in the tens of thousands in the 1960s, but by 2007 the UK only had 13,000 left. This has continued to decline. On top of this, the policy has added £200 a year to the family food bill which, at a time of cuts and austerity, is shameful.

Even the European Commission admits the CFP has failed. Eighty-eight per cent of fish stocks are overfished, while 30 per cent are outside safe biological limits, meaning they cannot reproduce as normal.

Following the Hugh's Fish Fight campaign by TV chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, aimed at ending 'discards', the EC called a meeting of fisheries ministers to announce a series of changes. I attended this meeting to listen to the proposals on a topic on which I have been campaigning for more than a decade. Before the meeting, the British minister, Richard Benyon, told me he assumed we'd be on the same side. I had to disagree – I don't think it is the place of a Greek politician, fisheries commissioner Maria Damanaki, to make laws on our national resources.

Every year, rounds of horse-trading take place in Brussels to decide fishing quotas. These are being reduced year-on-year, resulting in a situation where some fishermen, particularly those who operate smaller boats, cannot make a living.

Of course I'm delighted that after 28 years we may see an end to discards. The fact that we have been throwing millions of tonnes of fish back into the sea is an outrage. As one of the million anglers in the UK, I have been appalled at not only the impact on the environment but on our fishing industry and the damage wreaked on it by civil servants ignorant of this way of life. But for those who think this change will be a quick one, or one which will instantly breathe life into our beleaguered fishing industry, I'm afraid I don't share that confidence.

Hugh himself said that British fishermen will "feel the pinch". This may well have been the case if the industry was thriving, but in 2011 it's almost dead in the water. Rather than this gradual approach to ending discards and quotas, Ukip favours abandoning all quotas and strictly forbidding discards. We should follow the example of the Norwegians, who fish their own waters without discards by managing fishing effort.

Despite all-party criticism of the CFP, Ukip is the only party with the opportunity to restore British fishing to its former glory in a meaningful and practical manner.

The UK is in a prime location for creating some of the finest fishing grounds in Europe, if not the world. If managed correctly, these will last for ever, but I fear it will take more than a celebrity campaign and politicians motivated by spin to take the action needed to ensure we don't sound the final toll for the fishing industry in this country. For Kent, with its rich history, it will breathe new life into our communities.

• Ukip leader Nigel Farage is a South East MEP. He lives in Westerham, near Sevenoaks.

KOS media COMMENT

Lecturing on the merits of action

THE threat of strike action by workers from a variety of professions is yet further proof of what a sorry state our economy is in.

Post Office counter staff and lecturers at the University of Kent are the latest to voice their support for industrial action and it's likely the police would join them too, if they were allowed.

And while workers from different professions all have their own reasons for wanting to go on strike, it has become quite clear that money – or rather the lack of it – is the root of all evil as far as they are concerned.

In regards to the lecturers in particular, these must be surreal times.

As opposed to when postmen or rubbish collectors go on strike, only a small percentage of the population – students – are actually affected by anything university lecturers do.

Therefore they have little option but to target the very people they have devoted their lives to helping.

It can be easy to criticise union representatives for downing tools when they don't get their own way, but we all have our own reasons for making a stand against things that affect us personally.

There are likely to be many strikes, marches and rallies over the next few months and years, but only time will tell if any of them make a blind bit of difference.

Extra holiday match made in ale heaven

NOT only have we gained an extra bank holiday from the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, we now have a new drink to enjoy as well.

Moodley's Royal Match – described as an "elegant and tasteful" beer that reflects the characteristics of the happy couple – will go down well on a warm April afternoon.

But whether anyone will care – or even remember – what they are drinking by the end of the party is something else entirely.

Riposte to your glorified writer

I was dismayed by your Comment regarding supply teachers (March 6).

Supply staff may be expensive to a school, but very few people realise the amount of pay for a supply teacher is based on a regular teacher's annual salary and they would only receive the same amount if they worked every school day.

So far this tax year, I have earned £9,000, having been available for employment every working day.

Supply work is definitely drying up as schools increasingly use unqualified staff to teach children.

How many parents realise their children are being taught by teaching assistants and cover supervisors?

I believe the latter may be the "glorified babysitters" you refer to. I can certainly understand that teaching assistants obviously know the children and the curriculum, but they are not qualified teachers.

Supply teachers, as many pupils and parents do not realise, are fully qualified teachers, who have held permanent teaching positions in schools, sometimes for many years, as in my experience.

"In these tough economic times" as you write, it does not help to denigrate someone who is struggling to make a living and after years of teaching to be called a "glorified babysitter".

Name and address supplied

Bank on more trouble ahead

Chancellor George Osborne's statement that he is going to set up 10 enterprise zones in the North and the Midlands to stimulate growth is truly an admission that his present economic policies are an abject failure.

Ten zones north of London may just, in part, help those 10 areas but will certainly confine the rest of the country and undoubtedly Folkestone, to recession or even worse.

Here in Folkestone we have had Tory or Lib Dem run councils for decades, but enterprise is the last think they have helped generate. Far from growth, we have had decline upon decline and now in certain wards of the town have rapidly rising joblessness, with 25 per cent youth unemployment on top.

Margaret Thatcher and John Major – with their mace-wielding hero Michael 'Tarzan' Hestletine – set up 38 enterprise zones between 1981 and 1996, yet we still had three million unemployed, 15 per cent inflation and a decimated manufacturing base under the Tories.

Mr Osborne is just repeating the same old failed window dressing of the past.

Sure, the Chancellor has stated that we should never again rely upon the banks and financial services to grow the economy, but that in itself flies in the face of his own Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, who on the very same day let the cat out of the bag and warned of a second banking crisis in the UK unless the banks are reformed and stopped from putting profits and bonuses before people and industry.

Something this Government has patently failed to do.

We must though give the Chancellor credit for promising to reform the planning laws in the Entreprise Zones to allow speedier decisions for commerce and industry and to encourage entrepreneurs to invest without the risk of being tied up in lengthy and highly expensive local planning inquiries.

Pity this message did not get through to his colleagues in Cabinet responsible for calling in the Lydd airport planning application now costing us all millions in legal fees, council tax and lost opportunities.

Then Folkestone and Shepway are never destined to be enterprise zones under a Coalition Government that would rather preserve the district as a retirement zone for the gentlefolk of the Big Society than as an area of growth and prosperity for our children and generations to come.

Donald Worsley, Folkestone

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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BIRTHS

CAMBURN
Paul and Philippa of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Isabelle Jean Camburn. Isabelle was born on 21st February weighing 7lb 13oz.

GUNAGANTI
Malarvizhi and Srihari Gunaganti celebrate the birth of their daughter Teja Sri on 20th February 2011.

HASKER
Lyndsey and Neil of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Finley Sean Robert Hasker, born on 10th February 2011 at QEQM, Margate. Our most beautiful and precious son.

HAWKINS
Andrew and Jenny of Kings Hill are overjoyed to announce the birth of their second son, Nathaniel Adam, born on 26th February 2011. A new brother for Edward.

HIRST
Ryan Leslie, born on 24th February 2011 weighing 6lb 6.5oz. A beautiful son to Richard and Dawn Hirst of Folkestone.

HORGAN
Faith born on the 7th February 2011, weighing 7lb 14oz. Daughter to Daniel and Jolie of Folkestone.

RIGDEN
John Rigden and Maxine Horvath of Folkestone are delighted to announce the arrival of Chloe Louise at 2:14am on 24th February 2011, weighing in at just 7lb 5oz. A beautiful baby sister for Skye.

DEATHS

BARROWCLIFFE
Peter Barrowcliffe, formerly of Ramsgate, passed away on 26th February 2011, aged 63. Thank you to those who cared for him.

FALCONER
Vera Falconer passed away peacefully at EllenorLions Hospice, Northfleet, on Tuesday 1st March aged 69 years. A much loved wife, mum, sister, grandma and friend who will be very sadly missed by all. Funeral service to take place at Eltham Crematorium on 18th March at 3.30pm. Family flowers only and donations if desired to EllenorLions Hospice.

HAYES
Joan Betty Hayes of Deal passed away peacefully on 22nd February 2011. A much loved mum, grandmother and great grandmother who will be sadly missed. The funeral was held on 8th February at Barham Crematorium.

Reforms overlook autism needs

As a supporter of the National Autistic Society living in the area, I am extremely concerned about the Government's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) reforms.

The reforms mean people with autism will have to undergo a stringent face-to-face assessment to claim this vital benefit. Autism is a 'hidden' disability and unless assessors have specific training in the condition, it is very likely the needs of people with autism will be misunderstood or overlooked.

I would like to appeal to our local MP to bring this issue to parliament in line with the National Autistic Society's Who Benefits? campaign, which puts forward the following four points aimed at protecting society's most vulnerable:

• People shouldn't have to go through a face-to-face assessment if they already have sufficient evidence about their autism from previous assessments

• People with autism experience a variety of difficulties with daily life. The Government must make sure that these are reflected in the new assessment.

• Assessors must be trained so that they understand autism and how to talk to someone with autism, and can make a fair assessment of that person's needs

• The Government must not abolish the mobility component of DLA for people living in residential care.

I urge others in the area to take action now, by visiting www.autism.org.uk/whobenefits.

Isabelle Owen, Headcorn

Throwing good money after bad

I am appalled to read of Kent County Council's bid for £10m to the Regional Growth Fund, to support the construction of a rail station at Thanet Parkway, with the support of Roger Gale, one of our MPs.

This would subsidise a commercial airline operator to encourage it to fly from Manston airport to Europe.

A number of things trouble me about this: Far from being transparent, KCC is unwilling to release any details about this bid for public money to support a private company (and a company, moreover, that pays its taxes in New Zealand). Surely this is against the Conservative's public policy of more transparency in government?

A few years ago KCC headed a group of investors (almost all public sector) in a misguided attempt to boost business at Manston by subsidising flights to Virginia. In months, £200,000 was lost – almost all of it public money. KCC also invested in the previous owner of Manston, Planestation, and lost that public money too, when the company went into liquidation.

The Audit Commission criticised KCC for its ill-considered attempt to boost Manston by using public funds.

This current bid would be a classic case of throwing more public money away.

Market economics suggest that, if a commercial airline operator has to be subsidised to be tempted to fly from Manston, the route is not commercially viable without a subsidy. Airline operators are not daft – they fight for the routes that will make money and shun the rest. Manston has been in commercial ownership for 11 years and still has just two passenger flights a day.

A rail station at Thanet Parkway will make only a very marginal difference to the airport's accessibility and will not be enough to turn this loss-making business into a thriving regional airport.

Local people fear the grand plan is to build Thanet Parkway rail station in the middle of nowhere and then close Ramsgate rail station (and possibly two others) so that people who want to travel by train to London have to drive to a station rather than walk, as they do now. This is a retrograde step when we are supposed to be cutting emissions.

An unsuccessful Thanet Parkway station would lend itself to becoming another out-of-town shopping centre. In an era when we're worried about the UK's food security, this would be a poor swap for prime Kent farmland.

KCC has already said in its Local Transport Plan that it is not viable in the current economic climate to speed up the rail line from Thanet to London. If this is the case, then investing millions exploring Thanet Parkway is a complete waste of money, as KCC cannot afford to see the project through in the next five years.

What I would like to know – will KCC's past investment failures be taken into account when this £10m is considered?

Carole Russell, Ramsgate

Archbishop needs to defend his faith

Famously, when politicians lose their grip on their own countries and have no answers to its problems, they start looking to make a name for themselves abroad.

So the Archbishop of Canterbury ignores his decaying Church and tries to interfere in matters that are not really his concern.

Thanks to the continual dilution of Christ's message, the adoption of pagan teachings and the desire to do man's will rather than God's, Dr Rowan Williams has not only assisted the drift towards a more secular and soon to be Godless society, but presides over a Church which is crumbling beneath him, as his bishops leave for what they think are greener pastures.

He should be attending to the spiritual dearth in his Church as his flocks become, "skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd" [Matthew 9:36].

He should be more concerned at his lack of defence of the Christian faith, which is under attack as it has never been before, as more and more Christians are persecuted for their beliefs.

Instead, he does anything other than reinforce Christ's teachings, anything other than teach Biblical truths, anything other than give a spiritual lead in a very spiritually dark world. He is neither one thing or another, and as God said in Revelation 3:15-16, "Because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth".

His Church cannot stand.

Phil Granger, West Malling

People know best on EU, Cameron

Just how long can David Cameron ignore the people on the subject of the EU, after telling everyone to listen to the people?

It's quite possible the people of this country are a lot wiser than this government and can see all the disadvantages of belonging to this club, and very few of the benefits.

This country does not belong to Cameron or this government. It belongs to the people they are supposed to represent.

Going to the voting booth to put them in Westminster must be some sort of a joke, as David Cameron is no more than a caretaker passing on the EU rules and regulations.

Since Ted Heath, less and less of this country is being governed by Parliament and more and more by the unelected crowd in Brussels.

Just in case Mr Cameron has not got the message: "We want our country back." It is not down to him alone to decide on such an important issue.

Quite often we see war graves on television and I have to wonder why all those people died for our freedom when someone comes along and sells us down the river. That is an insult to all of those people, and not letting us have a say in staying or leaving the EU is an insult to the whole country.

He promised, amongst the many promises he has broken, some sort of a referendum about Europe, but the only promise he has kept so far is the one he made to Nick Clegg and that is one the country does not want.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Flooding caused by overpopulation

Here we go again. Steve Dawe of Kent Green Party belongs to the school that believes if you repeat anything enough times, it must make it true.

The latest is that recent flooding provides conclusive irrefutable proof of man-made global warming. Never mind that flooding occurred before the Industrial Revolution, before the world was so overpopulated and even covered the whole earth during the time of Noah, thousands of years ago.

The main contribution we have made to flooding is the concreting and asphalting over of vast areas of land that once used to soak up the rain. Now it stays on the surface, accumulates and floods housing. So once again in this argument we are back to the real problem of overpopulation.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Animal lovers can play a vital role

We're calling on readers to lend a hand at the RSPCA. The Kent West, Ashford and Dover, branches are searching for the volunteer stars of the future to help out with tasks, which go much further than dog walking and cat cuddling.

We are looking for people who can help out with all aspects of the charity's operation at a local level ranging from fundraising, assisting in the shops and customer service and having a say in key decisions as a branch trustee.

We hope that these opportunities will benefit the volunteers as well. Many of the tasks we need help with could help people struggling to find work to gain employment, or give school leavers and recent graduates that all-important work experience.

The RSPCA is a charity and receives no Government funding. It relies on members of the public to continue encouraging kindness and preventing cruelty to animals.

Experience is not necessary for many of the tasks, so whatever your forte, there should be something for you.

If your readers are interested in getting involved, they can contact the RSPCA enquiries team on 0300 1234 555, log on to www.rspca.org.uk or contact their local branch.

Liz Sheppee, branch operations manager, RSPCA

Check the rules on campaigning

On Thursday, May 5, voters will decide who represents them in local elections across England. There will also be a referendum on whether we use the 'first past the post' or 'alternative vote' system to elect MPs to the UK Parliament. Many of your readers will want to get involved in campaigning in the referendum and elections.

This could be by setting up a campaign group, standing as a candidate or starting a political party.

Anyone who wants to get involved should be aware that there are rules. These are set out at ww.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance and I'd encourage everyone hoping to play an active role in the campaigns to check the rules.

Peter Wardle, chief executive, Electoral Commission

Charity runners' Olympic chance

World Cancer Research Fund is inviting charity runners to run the 2012 Olympic Marathon route in a 10K race.

While raising money for vital cancer prevention research and education work, entrants will be able to take in the sights of next year's Olympic event including Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace.

There is no entry fee to race for WCRF on May 30, all you have to do is raise £200 in sponsorship.

Runners will get the full support of a dedicated member of WCRF's Events Team; training and nutrition advice; essential kit, including your unique vest; a fundraising pack and your own online sponsorship page.

Call 020 7343 4200 or visit www.wcrf-uk.org/signup to join.

Sian Fraser, events fundraiser, WCRF

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Claire Sweeney



Photograph by Karl Grant, Camera Press London

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Tom gets to the chapel on time

Stand-up shares the bright lights of his Vegas wedding



GROOM: Tom Wrigglesworth embellishes his real wedding experience in his Nightmare Dream Wedding Tour

Review

BY **NICK AMES**

COMIC Tom Wrigglesworth is set to appear at Canterbury's Gulbenkian Theatre as part of his nationwide Nightmare Dream Wedding Tour.

It recounts the story of a recent trip to Las Vegas, involving a chat-show host with delusions of vast grandeur, a hypnotic hotel guest, currency-based disasters, wrong identities and last-minute wedding plans.

So it's nothing new to a man who once stepped in to help an elderly lady in distress – and found himself accused of begging as the police were called to the scene.

"I got married in Vegas and it was really spontaneous, which was what me and Lu Lu, my wife, wanted," he said. "We were staying at the Golden Nugget, which is an older place, downtown, not on the strip, and it had been a very sudden decision to go. We decided three or four days earlier and then just left.

"We got married in the Little White Chapel along the strip and the woman there went through all these celebrities who'd done the same – Frank Sinatra was one, Britney Spears another. But it was all so quick that I didn't catch that many other names.

"She asked us if we were English and when we said yes she told us Jack and Vera Duckworth had been married there in an episode of Coronation Street.

"The show focuses on how I almost didn't get to the church on time. Some of it I have made up – but some is shudderingly accurate.

"It's got a good reception and it's better than it was when I first did it in Edinburgh. It wasn't really ready then, but now it has been knocked into shape."

Wrigglesworth said he really enjoyed his time in Las Vegas – despite coming out on the wrong side when it came to gambling.

"I loved it and had a real hoot there," he said. "I'm totally aware that it is fake, but it has a shameless quality to it which I like. I think the key to it all is not to take it seriously.

"I'm a fair poker-player, but I didn't win at the tables. In fact I don't think I was ever ahead."

The Yorkshireman won the comedy newcomer award So You Think You're Funny? at the 2003 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

In 2006 he performed with fellow comedian Tom Allen as a part of the show Allen And Wrigglesworth. In 2009 he was nominated for the main Edinburgh Comedy Award. He presented Radio 7's Comedy Club in 2010.

This year he had his own series of four programmes broadcast on BBC Radio 4 entitled Tom Wrigglesworth's Open Letters; it was placed in the 6.30pm slot on Thursdays.

This is based around four comic exchanges of letters with bureaucrats and corporate jobsworths. "Does anyone like them?" asked Wrigglesworth.

"I do like radio," he said. "The TV I have done has tended to be bits and bobs, five- or 10-minute slots, whereas the radio can be half an hour of me. I'm a lot more in charge."

He hit the headlines recently when coming to the aid of a pensioner on a train.

Lena Ainscow, 75, was left in tears when she was ordered to pay £115 for a new ticket to London.

So fellow passenger Wrigglesworth stepped in to organise a whip-round to help her – but a guard said his actions were equivalent to begging and warned him that the police would be called in.

The incident happened after Mrs Ainscow had set out from her home in Bolton on a trip via Manchester and London to see her daughter Carol Battersby, who lives in Bromley.

Mrs Ainscow had bought an £11.50 pre-booked ticket for the 10.45am Virgin service from Manchester to Euston.

But her travel itinerary stated that she was booked on the 10.15am service and when she asked staff what she should do about the error they told her to board the earlier train.

However, when her ticket was inspected, she was told it was invalid and she must buy a new one.

"When the guard said I had to buy a new ticket I was devastated," she said just after the event. "The only money I had was the savings I'd scraped together to get my grandchildren a present."

Wrigglesworth said: "I couldn't sit there and let this helpless woman deal with it on her own. I got a paper bag from the buffet car and told the other passengers that if we all gave 50p or £1 we would get the money in no time.

"Everyone was happy to help and someone even put in £30."

The ticket was bought and paid for, but when Wrigglesworth got off the train at Euston he was met by transport police officers.

He said: "Thankfully, a couple of the other passengers helped to explain. Once the police had been put in the picture, they walked away."

The incident was the spark for Wrigglesworth's previous tour.

"Funnily enough, I was sitting there thinking shall I do something or not, when it happened," he said. "In the end I did something and am very thankful that I did. It has certainly helped my career.

"And it has also got Virgin to change their policies – which were previously so inflexible. So that is good as well."

• Tom Wrigglesworth is performing at Canterbury's Gulbenkian Theatre on Saturday, March 19 at 7.45pm. Tickets are £12, or £10 for Encore! Gulbenkian members. For more details or to book, visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian or phone 01227 769075.



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Johnson brought to life

A PLAY about the 18th century's most famous man of letters, Samuel Johnson, is to be staged at Eastwell Manor near Ashford.

A Dish Of Tea With Doctor Johnson is a two-hander starring Russell Barr and Ian Redford.

Samuel Johnson, born in 1709, was one of England's best-known literary figures. He was a poet, essayist, biographer and literary critic who wrote the first English-language dictionary, published in 1756.

The play has been adapted by Russell Barr, Ian Redford and the former director of the Royal Court Theatre, Max Stafford-Clark from Boswell's A Life Of Doctor Johnson and A Journal Of A Tour Of The Hebrides.

The evening of anecdotes and witty conversation brings to life one of literature's most colourful figures.



Picture: ROBERT WORKMAN

The actors will be joined by a Jack Russell terrier called Katie, who will be playing Dr Johnson's cat, Hodge.

The play is being staged on Friday and Saturday, March 18-19.

On Friday morning, drama students will have an opportunity to attend a workshop with Stafford-Clark about rehearsal techniques and research into productions.

For the full programme of events involving the Out Of Joint Theatre Company at Eastwell Manor, including ticket prices, visit the website www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.

Hear a musical legend live

THE name Alan Price summons up some of the most memorable sounds in the last 40 years.

From The Animals' House Of The Rising Sun to his quirky take on Randy Newman's Simon Smith And His Amazing Dancing Bear to his many hits with Georgie Fame, including the most famous, Rosetta, Price is recognised as a musical legend.

His induction into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame in 1994 was testimony to his achievements throughout his career in the music industry.

He also won a BAFTA award for the soundtrack of acclaimed film O Lucky Man!, in which he also appeared.

He continues to write, record and perform regularly around the world and is acknowledged as one of the most talented and enduring musical artists to have emerged from the 60s British-beat boom.

He will be appearing at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury on Thursday (March 17) at 7.45pm.

Tickets are £18.50, or £16.50 for Encore! Gulbenkian members.

To book, phone 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

Talents at The Tower

MARCH sees The Tower Theatre in Folkestone play host to The Best Of British Jazz, a month of evenings dedicated to celebrated jazz musicians.

Hastings's own infant prodigy Liane Carroll (who started playing the piano aged three) will take to the stage on Thursday (March 17).

A regular at Ronnie Scott's Soho jazz club, the only artist ever to receive two BBC jazz awards in the same year will be play her debut at The Tower.

The Glastonbury headliner's venture into drum and bass has also proved successful as she toured New Zealand and Brazil with outfit London Elektricity.

But spectators can expect to hear a more traditional offering from a selection from albums such as Billy No Mates, Slow Down and Standard Issue, which won Carroll the Marston Pedigree Jazz Award.

A collaborator on Standard Issue, Bobby Wellins, above right, arguably the UK's best-loved tenor sax, will play the Tower on Thursday, March 24.



Wellins has already graced the covers of two UK jazz magazines in recent weeks and will end the month on a high, treating the audience to his rich melodies.

To book, phone the box office on 01303 223925 or visit www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.

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BY GEORGE
Michael Luvis casts a witty eye over Englishness in this revue of comedy songs including Noel Coward, Flanders & Swann and G&S. He takes an affectionate and often hilarious look at those who don't take themselves too seriously.
Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm

SPRING CLASSICS 2
Hannah Lang (flute) & Peter Hewitt (piano)
MOZART, PROKOFIEFF, SINGLEE, FAURE
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Sunday 13th March at 3.00pm

SHERLOCK HOLMES - The Last Act
Award winning Roger Llewellyn performs in his acclaimed production
Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm

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Friday 18th March 7:30 pm
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Jed
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Thursday 17th March
Laurie & Bill
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Friday 18th March
Hard Road Blue
The Red Lion, 1 King Street, RAMSGATE **01843 586713**

Saturday 19th March
The Outcome
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Thursday 24th March
Sham Lee Parker in Cabaret
The New Inn, 2 Delf Street, SANDWICH **01304 612335**

Friday 25th March
Tortilla Army
The Red Lion, 1 King Street, RAMSGATE **01843 586713**

Saturday 26th March
As Is Now
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Thursday 31st March
Monster Rock
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Magical Madeira

By **DEBBIE MURRAY**

NOT many weeks had passed since devastating floods produced torrents of rain gushing down from the mountains when we arrived in Funchal, the capital and port of Madeira.

Gardens and tree-lined promenades looked as immaculate as ever, and the only evidence of the floods was the remains of a collapsed bridge in the village of Ribeira Brava, which is perhaps down to the fierce civic pride of this Portugal-owned island.

Madeira is a visual feast – a dramatic combination of awe-inspiring mountains and hidden valleys formed 20 million years ago from a volcanic eruption.

A mild climate and year-round sunshine ensure the land is covered in a carpet of lush green trees, plants and flowers. The Garden Island, as it's known, is nearer to Africa than Portugal, and only 36 miles long and 14 miles wide.

Steep in Madeira really does mean steep. The tour bus got me most of the way up Pico Areerio, Madeira's third-highest mountain, but I was still gasping for breath as I took in the spectacular view. It felt as if we were standing on top of the world.

At the Villa Porto Mare Resort, our four-star hotel in the centre of Funchal, the sun-lounger beckoned. Surrounded by manicured gardens and with the scent of beautiful flowers wafting on the breeze, this was the perfect place to do nothing.

For the more active, the resort also offers indoor and outdoor pools, and there's a choice of four restaurants and bars. There's also a handy free bus into the city centre.

The only flatness among Madeira's peaks is in the west of the island, at Paul de Serra, a plateau and perhaps the only place where you see cows grazing. Other cows on the island are housed in individual sheds to stop them falling down the steep terraces.

Locals use these terraces to make a living growing vegetables: sweet potatoes and cabbages, with banana plants bursting with bunches. There are also hundreds of grape vines, for the famous Madeira fortified wine.

Funchal itself has a genteel and stately air, its streets gathered around the small but magnificent Se cathedral, a 15th-century whitewashed building with a beautiful interior. A fantastic seafront promenade stretches the length of the bay. At the west end is the harbour and marina, while the rest is dotted with cafés and bars, ideal for coffee, cake, beer or people-watching.

Nearer sea level, the views continue to amaze. Funchal sits like an amphitheatre on the south of the island, its terracotta roof tiles a quilt of colour. Hotels line the front row, while villas and apartments further back house half of the 250,000 islanders.

In the east, the old town is characterised by narrow cobbled streets, small squares and markets, surrounded by terraced fishermen's cottages, where early settlers once lived. Here, there's a better view of Funchal, by taking a cable car from the seafront high above the city to the hills further inland.

Dramatic

The car stops at the hill-top town of Monte, home to the beautiful Church of Our Lady, which sits in a dramatic position on top of a hill and is accessed only by climbing tens of steps. It's worth the effort, though, especially if you plan to travel back downhill the traditional way... by toboggan.

Goods used to be carried up the hills by horse-drawn toboggans, but this has been adapted for tourists and is a lot of fun.

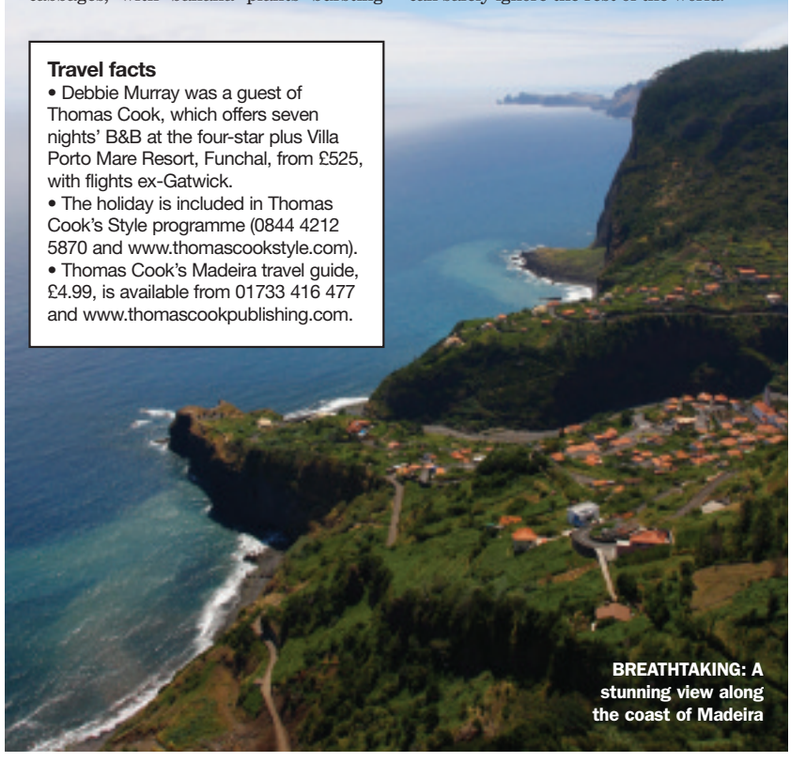
If, like Winston Churchill, you want to capture the views on canvas, head west to Camara de Lobos, where brightly-coloured fishing boats bob about in the shadow of the cliffs. This view inspired the great man to set up his easel and paint palette back in 1950.

Churchill's favourite spot was the famous Reid's Palace Hotel; built on a prominent corner of the headland in Funchal in 1891, it still maintains a colonial grandeur.

But you can stay much more cheaply on Madeira and still enjoy its delights – a marvellously relaxed way of life and the sense that, out in the middle of the Atlantic, you can safely ignore the rest of the world.

Travel facts

- Debbie Murray was a guest of Thomas Cook, which offers seven nights' B&B at the four-star plus Villa Porto Mare Resort, Funchal, from £525, with flights ex-Gatwick.
- The holiday is included in Thomas Cook's Style programme (0844 4212 5870 and www.thomascookstyle.com).
- Thomas Cook's Madeira travel guide, £4.99, is available from 01733 416 477 and www.thomascookpublishing.com.



BREATHTAKING: A stunning view along the coast of Madeira



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Limehouse Thai offers a sizzling taste of summer



RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY **ERICA JONES**

HAVING previously taken my housemate to a truly dire Thai restaurant, for this review I felt it only fair we go somewhere at the other end of the quality scale, Limehouse Thai.

Located on Rochester high street, our first experience with the restaurant was the nightmare of parking, but fortunately our luck was in and we only had to walk about 100 yards to get to the lights of our destination, where our table was booked for 8pm.

On arrival we were informed that our table wasn't quite ready yet and ushered downstairs to the bar to peruse the menu over a couple of mango juices.

The menu offered the usual mix of Thai curries, along with a varied selection of dishes that neither of us had heard of. So, just to be imaginative, we both went for our old favourites from the starter menu.

I chose tom yum goong soup (£4.95). This hot-and-sour prawn soup had wimpy old me hiccuping over the spiciness but was simply delicious. At the time I believe I used much higher praise in my description, but as this met with a withering look from my housemate – who liked it but not quite that much – I thought I'd tone down my praise here.

She went for her usual tempura pak (£4.15) of deep-fried vegetables with a sweet-chilli dipping sauce. The plate was soon cleared, but she did feel the portion was a little on the large side for leaving room for the main course.

This time I decided to try something different and went for goong farang (£7.95), a sizzling platter of king prawns and asparagus in oyster sauce. It is not the asparagus season, but to me this dish was quite simply summer on a plate.

As a vegetarian, my housemate decided to go for something a little more unusual and so chose pad mamaung jay (£5.75), stir-fried tofu with cashew nuts. What to me looked like stir-fried sponge was to her a tasty and flavorsome dish.

We couldn't agree on a vegetable side, so we ended up choosing two dishes: pad pak (£4.95), stir-fried mixed vegetables in soya sauce, and spicy aubergine with fresh chilli and basil leaves (£4.95). The latter had a delicious tang of garlic and was a favourite with the housemate. Personally, I preferred the mixed veg, a much lighter dish which did not compete with my main.

Then we also shared a bowl of coconut rice (£2.25), again a tasty dish, with just the right balance of flavour.

Unable to quite cram everything in, we asked the waitress to package up our leftovers to take home with us before casting our eye over the dessert menu.

Feeling rather full, we decided to share a taco (£3.50) – what looked to be a traditional Thai dessert. This comprised a coconut custard with water chestnuts served in pandanus leaves; it looked, well, odd. We were served with four small squares of what struck me as being the Thai equivalent of jelly and custard – the white coconut set on top of what seemed, to my uncultured eye, to be a green jelly but which was more salt than sweet.

We struggled to decide if we liked it but did devour most of the dish before deciding we'd eaten too much and instead relaxed at our table with a coffee and a jasmine tea.

The restaurant was packed during our visit, but the tables were spaced far enough apart so that we didn't feel overcrowded.

It did meant we only saw the waiting staff when being served, but as we were perfectly happy with our meal that was not a problem.

I absolutely loved the meal, while my housemate enjoyed it but with a little more reserve. The final bill was £48.70.

Limehouse Thai, or its sister establishment the takeaway Grandma Thai, is definitely a place to which we will return.

Limehouse Thai, 327 High Street, Rochester ME1 1DA
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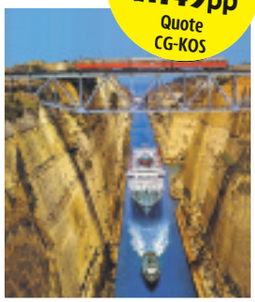
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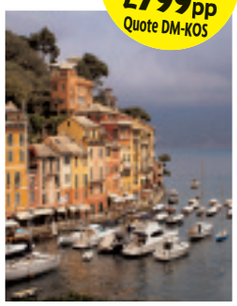
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Women Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to someone look no further TXT **CHAT883** to **65**25 for chat with pictures, fun and safe service.

ATTRACTIVE vibrant mid 60's female, independent, likes music, travel, socialising, seeks cultured, energetic, cultured male. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384766**

35YR old outgoing discreet female looking for someone who WLTM up for fun adult dates. Can accommodate. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361757**

FLIRTY 30, very attractive confident slim brunette, looking for fun times with broadminded male. Single dad welcome. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361755**

VOLUPTUOUS attractive tanned, well groomed blonde 39, looking for good times, pampering, massages and discreet friendship. ACA. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361751**

GORGEOUS looking lonely lass 28, OHAC, no ties, looking for some romantic liaisons with older male. ACA/ looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361731**

HI I am Sandy, an attractive 38yr old nurse looking for some off duty passion with affectionate open-minded man. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361729**

MANDY early 40's, slightly alternative, looking for similar open minded male for fun nights in/out. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361727**

YOUNG 40's lady who loves cooking and enjoying good wine, WLTM older male for cosy nights in and great company. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359163**

ORIENTAL female, 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207**

BEAUTIFUL slim, sexy female, 22, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362201**

PRETTY woman, slim, black, widow, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695**

MAIL/GUARDIAN reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655**

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633**

SINGLE female, 60, sincere, caring, likes most things, seeks male, 60-65, N/S with GSOH for companionship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360557**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291**

SAM 37, attractive, size 16, friendly, bubbly, seeks sincere, genuine male, 35-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384334**

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159**

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305**

KATHY long blonde hair, blue eyes, 60, likes mowtown music, nights in/out, seeks gent, 47-62. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361797**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575**

SLIM attractive, elegant Asian female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, Asian male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

NAUGHTY but extremely nice 27yr old curvy, sensual, feminine female, seeking similar minded male for lots of fun. Any age/ Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361383**

6FT blonde leggy ex lingerie model 33, looking for good times with free thinking male. Single dad welcome/Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361381**

CURVY sophisticated Irish lady 36, new to the area and lonely, WLTM male up to 69yrs for companionship, cosy nights in/out. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361379**

KAREN tall slim feminine, 40, WLTM genuine male who will keep me warm and cosy up for romantic nights in/out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361357**

57YR old voluptuous lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685**

HONEST caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381844**

MARY 62, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes nights in/out, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359467**

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961**

FUN loving country girl, 48, seeks male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384488**

FEMALE seeks N/S, clean, tidy white male, 42-50 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361049**

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005**

5FT 4ins, slim, medium build, long hair, blue eyes, likes keep fit, animals, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384482**



SUE 59, divorced, likes walks, cinema, meals out, antiques, seeks genuine, faithful guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360923**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks discreet male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

LOOKING for relaxation and fun? Attractive 49yr old nurse waiting to raise the temperature of broadminded, fun companion! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361355**

HI I'm Sandra a vivacious animal loving leggy blonde, 33yrs, looking for discreet male for fun times and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361351**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577**

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761**

FAYE N/S, non drinker, lots of love to give, seeks special, genuine, honest male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349309**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215**

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291**

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995**

TALL slim brunette, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969**

SOUTH London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989**

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981**

FOREIGN beauty, long, long hair, 20's yrs, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967**

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985**

SEALED with a kiss. 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543**

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curvy, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355391**

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419**

BUBBLY outgoing nurse, (I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983**

ATTRACTIVE lady, curvy and fun, looking for an uncomplicated fun only discreet relationship, after work etc, any area London. Discretion assured and expected please **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356991**

BABE seeks mature white male for discreet fun, you won't be sorry I know how to treat my man. Any area London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356997**

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581**

LONELY female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359**

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721**

CUDDLY curvy size 14 plus female looking for very assertive gent, 59-65 for daytime adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358729**

BEDFORDSHIRE female, 39, HIV positive, likes cinema, music, travel, nights in, wine bars, seeks decent, white, professional male, under 45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358579**

Men Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to someone look no further TXT **CHAT883** to **65**25 for chat with pictures, fun and safe service.

MATURE Caribbean gent, seeks articulate female who likes music, dance and London lifestyle. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362491**

VALENTINES card this year, no, me neither, say hi and maybe you will get a late one, Paul 42. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362481**

NICK 46, slim, genuine, seeks female, 36-56 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362447**

RECENT widow 60, 5ft 9ins, medium build, N/S, seeks slim, attractive female to share the nice things in life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362291**

MALE 52, seeks attractive, fun, outgoing female, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384770**

ASHFORD lady sought by genuine, loyal male, likes music for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362249**

FUN loving professional male, 42, independent, likes good things, seeks female for LTR. Don't mind animals/children. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384750**

MIDDLE aged male, 57, 5ft 9ins, likes football, gardening, seeks female, 55 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362091**

MALE 5ft 5ins, young 60's, dark hair, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362039**

JOHN 42, 6ft, divorced, no ties, brown hair, blue eyes, likes cooking, camping, holidays, seeks female, 30-45 with similar interests for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361999**

JOHN 52, 5ft 2ins, medium build, shaven head, blue eyes, seeks female of similar age with GSOH for fun times. St Helens. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362445**

MALE 41, seeks slim, attractive, faithful, honest, dark female who likes cooking, walks, music, films etc for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362315**

DECENT looking male, 38, likes pubs, music, restaurants, nights in/out, seeks female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361771**

LOVING genuine male, young at heart, 70, reliable, honest, likes cinema, meals out, seeks genuine, loving female for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361875**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

TALL dark, professional male, seeks similar female, 32-44 for friendship, nights out and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384668**

PAUL likes meals out, walks, seeks young female for relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361607**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, loving, caring, likes theatre, holidays, country walks, meals out, cinema, music, cooking, seeks female, 37-57 for loving LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361555**

LEE
58, attractive, seeks black, tactile, handsome, seeks female, 38-60 for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361501**

TALL slim, fit, well dressed gent, late 70's, seeks slim, elegant lady for dining out and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361463**

ANDREW 5ft 10ins, easygoing, spontaneous, adventurous, seeks female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361445**

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, medium build, smoker, GSOH, honest, down to earth, likes music, sunshine, walks, home life, holidays, days out, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349741**

MALE 57, own home, works full time, seeks lady 45-62 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360381**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, 5ft 6ins, medium build, caring, loving, likes walks, cinema, meals out, DVDs, music, seeks female, 38-57 for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359801**

32YR old male, outgoing, fun loving, seeks female for naughty fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384356**

WILLIAM young 65, fit, active, N/S, non drinker, seeks Christian female who enjoys the simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350833**

KEV 47, 6ft 1ins, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks attractive, loving, loyal female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358761**

HEDONISTIC curvy, vivacious female sought by successful, tall, young 51yr old guy to pamper and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384264**

ANDREW attractive, tanned, young 48, N/S, ex BA crew 747/concorde, fitness training instructor, mountain medic, GSOH, widowed, no kids/baggage, seeks anyone anywhere, genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360965**

61YR old male, loving, caring, likes motorsports, seeks female, 60-63 for meals out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360919**

MICHAEL 68, retired historian, fit, active, intelligent, kind, seeks woman with lively mind and warm heart for LTR. North Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361349**

TOM
58, attractive, seeks black, attractive female 20-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361347**

48YR old single male, seeks female for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361327**

WHITE male, 52, 6ft, medium build, likes meals out, cinema, travel, seeks genuine, kind, loving, black/mixed race female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361259**

STEVE 42, Mr Average, looking for a lady to have fun with and take care. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361931**

GENT 62, assertive, many interests, seeks curvy lady, interested in exploring her secret fantasies. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361849**

DECENT looking male, 38, likes pubs, music, restaurants, nights in/out, seeks female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361771**

ENGLISH male, 60, N/S, likes days out, seeks black, Asian female, 60-65 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361713**

FRANK 80, seeks lady for companionship, meals out etc, feeling a little lonely like me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361559**

MALE seeks female for daytime and adult fun/romance on a discreet basis. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361399**

TALL slim, fit, N/S 52yr old guy, seeks likeminded female for no strings attached fun. Discretion assured and expected. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384450**

PROFESSIONAL male, 58, honest, reliable, fun, likes sports, travel, seeks attractive female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360777**

BRIAN 48, 5ft 9ins, medium build, told attractive, easygoing, likes pubs, meals out, cinema, seeks attractive white female, 35-48 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361199**

DAVID 61, proud of it, fanciable, poetic, likes participation, disciplined, adventurous. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357791**

ANDREW 59, seeks similar aged female for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357261**

MID
5 0 ' s male, easygoing, understanding, likes normal things, seeks female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332397**

BLOND male, 47, PA/secretary, easygoing, likes fashion, shopping, dancing, travel, seeks similar smart female who loves to chat and dance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361011**

DANNY 46, workaholic, seeks female for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360085**

47YR old male, easygoing, GSOH, likes nights out, meals, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359753**

CHRIS 5ft 7ins, sticky, fun loving, kind, seeks lady of my dreams, size 12-20. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345962**

YOUNG male, 33, new to area, seeks mature, adventurous female friend for fun evenings in. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358063**

RAMSGATE male, 5ft 5ins, young 60's, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359471**

Gay Seeking

EXPERIENCED gay guy, blond hair, blue eyes, seeks younger guy, 18-30 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362407**

TALL gay muscular non scene guy 29, seeks older guy, 70 plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362203**

35YR old male, 6ft, slim, likes nights in, films, seeks older, active male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362141**

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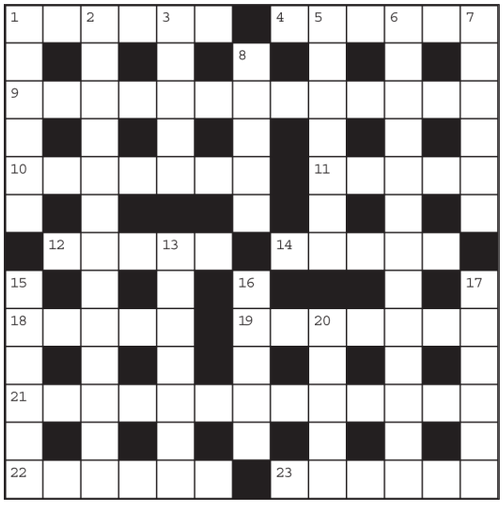
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CROSSWORD No 430

Name.....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. The sort of valve to take the pressure off (6)
4. He retains an employee at the zoo (6)
9. An expert in his own field (13)
10. Series of lectures produced by culinary experts (7)
11. To put somebody in a grave situation (5)
12. Sounds like no animal noise (5)
14. Jules never changes (5)
18. Steward ever so upset by the end of the voyage (5)
19. Climbing device to fasten tightly on (7)
21. Fast enables me to get involved in personal mortification (4-9)
22. Made things go round (6)
23. Didn't make a bid in spades, maybe (6)

Down

1. Seize a bit of air (6)
2. He predicts the bank clerk will be after a large sum of money (7-6)
3. Temporarily secures a levy, we hear (5)
5. Use vile arrangement - that's dodgy (7)
6. Many different types will be employed in operating this (8-5)
7. Smart answer about something wrong in law (6)
8. Forbid access to the cathedral precinct (5)
13. Amended range of French missile (7)
15. Port is used for a toast (6)
16. It's no longer used for a fight (5)
17. Made into one tune I'd transposed (6)
20. An exceptionally long time coming back for the ring (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Animal food (6)
4. Skipped (6)
9. Infusive (13)
10. Greatest (7)
11. Curved (5)
12. Entice (5)
14. Drain (5)
18. Carried (5)
19. Swagger (7)
21. Conflicting (13)
22. Detective (6)
23. Deleted (6)

Down

1. Frail (6)
2. Vanishing (13)
3. The cream (5)
5. Stir (7)
6. Scrupulous (13)
7. Cheat (6)
8. Stunned (5)
13. Clown (7)
15. Counting device (6)
16. Dwell (5)
17. Ragged (6)
20. Open sore (5)

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 429: *Across*: 1 Capital Gains; 7 Maxim; 8 Libra; 9 Net; 10 Sweetmeat; 11 Luring; 12 Enable; 15 Germinate; 17 Air; 18 Since; 19 Glass; 21 House-trained. *Down*: 1 Chronologist; 2 Tax; 3 Limber; 4 All at once; 5 Noble; 6 Battleground; 7 Motor; 10 Sentinels; 13 Boats; 14 Faggot; 16 Rondo; 20 Ada. **QUICK SOLUTIONS 430:** *Across*: 1 Fodder; 4 Danced; 9 Inspirational; 10 Supreme; 11 Arced; 12 Tempt; 14 Sewer; 18 Borne; 19 Bluster; 21 Contradictory; 22 Sleuth; 23 Erased. *Down*: 1 Flimsy; 2 Disappearance; 3 Elite; 5 Agitate; 6 Conscientious; 7 Delude; 8 Dazed; 13 Pierrot; 15 Abacus; 16 Abide; 17 Frayed; 20 Ulcer.

• The winner of last week's crossword, no 429, is Ian Symes, of Chatham





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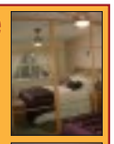
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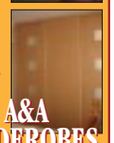
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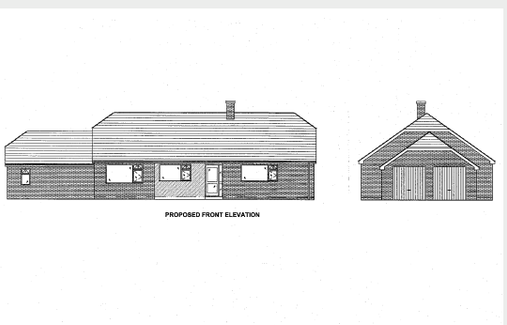
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A YOUTH training project aimed at inspiring young people through music is staging monthly gigs in Maidstone.

Training Them Live (TTL) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing its clients with the life skills required to aid their transition into further education and employment.

Last month it staged its first gig at the Babylon Live Lounge in King Street, Maidstone, with future shows planned for the first Sunday of every month.

TTL chairman Chris Ellen said: "Our project has been running for the last six years and is strongly supported by Medway Council, Kent Police, and local businesses and business partnerships.

"Training Them Live provides a youth engagement strategy through its music projects, which helps give bored youngsters places to go and keeps them out of harm's way. We are also able to provide them with valuable life-skill building blocks which help to support them in further education and employment."

Among the skills taught to youths involved in the project include how to work both on stage and in the studio, and how to improve with their instruments of choice. Money raised from the gigs is donated to the Sittingbourne-based charity Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

Babylon Live Lounge owner Kirit Velani said: "We contacted Training Them Live having heard about their rock schools and the work they do in providing acts and event management for the Under Siege concerts at Rochester Castle.

"We've opened our doors to give musicians a chance to play in a real music venue, using and learning from all of our lighting and sound equipment."

The Sunday Night Live gigs are held over two floors, each with their own type of music, between 3-10pm on the first Sunday of every month.

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Shelley's four-day forum



AMBITIOUS: Centre manager Shelley Filippi

A SHOPPING centre manager has won a place on a prestigious four-day retail training course, worth £2,000.

Shelley Filippi, who works for the Cushman & Wakefield real estate firm in Swanley, will join other senior figures at the Oxford Retail Masters Forum, running from March 28-31.

As well as hosting seminars with guest speakers, the course invites attendees to explore such issues as global sourcing, ethical trading, business management and climate change.

Shelley said: "As a shopping centre manager, I hope the forum will give me a better understanding of retailers' needs at a higher level.

"I want to expand and advance my career in retail but I know I need to get up to speed with the industry language and trends, and attending the course will help me achieve this."

The scholarship was joint-funded by Skillsmart Retail, the Sector Skills Council for Retail, and the Retail Trust.

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KENT Adult Education is running courses for people hoping to enter the field of learning support.

Level one introduction sessions are being offered across the county from next month, with potential students advised to visit www.kent.gov.uk/adulted or call 0845 606 5606 for more information on how to enrol.

The organisation is highlighting the story of one of its former learners, Satvinder from Gravesend, who gained recognised literacy and numeracy qualifications with Kent Adult Education so she could land a part-time job at a local school.

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- Scientific and Pharmaceutical, Research
- Transport, Logistics, Aviation



Property Sales Executive Field Based
Medway, Maidstone & Swale

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

ARCHANT KOS Media is seeking a highly motivated person to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio of newspapers, magazines and digital sales and to develop sale within an exciting new property portal.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships.

We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role.

You will need to be a self-motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator and presenter, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Jason Pyne, Development Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth,
Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Raising Attainment, Attendance, Aspiration through Visual Expression

Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

As a graduate have you considered a career in teaching via the GTP route?
Salary: £13,500 during training

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University, is inviting applicants to join our Graduate Teacher programme from September 2011 in English, Maths, ICT, RE

Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, www.raaave.com or from Muireann Casserly (EBT), mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk
The closing date for applications is Friday 25th March 2011

www.raaave.com office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01474 534718
Rochester Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JW

London Care
Passion for Independence, Respect for Choice

Care Workers
Rochester, Gillingham, Strood, Walderslade, Twydall, Lordswood

- Evening working hours
- Weekend working hours
- Full training to NVQ Level 2
- 28 days of paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Must have good written and spoken English

London Care PLC is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and people with disabilities living in their own homes.

Contact Jill or Jak, Monday to Friday, on 01634 828 928 or email amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk

London Care Plc is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Rochester CATHEDRAL

Relief Catering Manager/Chef

needed for busy tearooms to cover weekends and other days as required (18 hours per week initially, increasing as additional cover is needed).
The Cathedral Tearooms is open daily from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm and has a reputation for high-quality food which is all cooked on the premises and we are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced chef used to working in a fast-paced retail environment.

Experience of management, including handling money, as well as health and hygiene qualifications are required.
For further details and an application form please contact Pamela Epps by email on deanspa@rochestercathedral.org or by telephone 01634 810071
Closing date for applications 18 March 2011

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Westbank Care Home Borough Green
require
Registered Nurses Days/Nights
Health Care Assistants/Days
Full/Part-Time-Permanent/Bank Hours
To work in a 40 bedded nursing home.
In-house training provided.
Please ring for information
01732 780066

Terra Blu

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED FOR AN EXPANDING CARE AGENCY.

FULL-TIME SHIFTS AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE, HILDENBOROUGH & SEVENOAKS

- Self Employed basis only
- Shift starts at 7am
- £8.25 to £13.00 per hour
- You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own
- Must have own car and phone
- Uniform provided
- Full Training programme available

Experience preferred but not essential.
All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check

CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON 01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW
www.terrablu.co.uk
An Investor in People Employer

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Required
42.5 hours per week – 8:00am to 4:30pm Mon to Fri
£8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

R & C PUMPS LTD

Previous experience working in a small business on a financial computer software package. You must have a full Driving Licence to drive company vehicle. Must have a good telephone manner and knowledge of computers to develop company website. Your duties will involve day to day operations of normal buying and selling procedures within a small business, accurate daily record keeping and filing of engineers site attendance into suspension and computer files, website development and other administration tasks as required.
Rapid enhancement of pay structure for the right applicant.

Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk

rimstyle.com

TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Job Description Summary:
• Fitting tyres to alloy wheels• Balancing wheel/tyre units
• Wrapping finished wheel/tyre units
• Handling incoming goods • Preparing outgoing goods
• Maintaining equipment

Must be experienced in tyre fitting, essential.
Hours: 37.5 hours per week (9:00 – 5:30 Mon-Fri)
Holiday Entitlement: 28 days
Salary: £8.50 – £9.50 per hour – negotiable dependant on experience.
Location:
Unit 17, Connect 10, Foster Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH
For more information please contact
Toby Woods/Gary Matthews
Tel: 01233 503006 or email: sales@rimstyle.com

CROSS ROADS CARE Medway

Carer Support Workers (Bank Staff)

We are currently seeking dedicated Carer Support Workers (bank) to join our team to work with clients of all ages providing Carers with that all important Carers Break. We work on a flexible roster and you will be required to work some evenings and some weekends.

Applicants should hold NVQ2/3 in social care. We offer a bespoke quality service for carers of people of all ages at a time when they need it most.

To apply or to find out more: please phone 01634 868885 between 9am and 4pm for your application form or email: medwaycrossroads@btconnect.com

PART-TIME COOK

required for residential home in the Meopham and Wrotham area. Alternate weekends and plus holiday cover. To cook for 50 plus elderly residents. Good home cooking skills required.

Please call Karen or Julie - Tel: **01732 822215** or email: **holywellpark@aol.com**

MONTAGU COURT CLIFTONVILLE

Requires
Senior Carer. Must have **NVQ 2** or above.
Also **Day & Night Flexi Carers**
Call Alan or Jill on 01843 220090

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

Self motivated, flexible sales people required to sell marketing services for local businesses.

Great opportunity for the right applicants. Potential to sell to a huge untapped market with minimum competition.

Applicants must demonstrate a proven sales track record, have their own car, smartphone and be computer literate.

Apply: info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
or telephone: 01227 733444



The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

B2B Media Sales Executives – Field Based x 2
Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells
Full Time permanent – East Kent

We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced sales professional to drive new business and manage existing clients.

The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills, a self starter; tenacious and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media (although this is not essential,) will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media. Knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be beneficial.

Telephone Sales Executive Ashford

You will play a key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates should possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ideally you will have a media sales background, although this is not essential as full training and support is provided.

Recruitment Executive Ashford

You will ideally have a recruitment agency background, possess a track record in telephone sales and negotiation, be well organised and combine excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured recruitment professional.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. All candidates must have own transport.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

Media Sales Executives - Field Based x 2
Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells
Full Time permanent – Maidstone & Surrounding

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Senior reporter

Archant KOS Media is looking for an experienced, enthusiastic, self-starter in a rare opportunity to join our senior reporting team. Providing balanced, insightful, engaging copy week in, week out for our award-winning weekend titles Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday. As well as our midweek e-editions and websites, the role is demanding but richly rewarding.

You will have worked as a senior reporter within the local or national press or have recently passed your NCE exams and will be prepared to take an integral, responsible, role within a friendly newsroom. You will be capable of bringing in off-diary exclusives and be full of ideas.

Salary is competitive.

Junior reporter

Archant KOS Media is seeking a junior reporter, in a rare opportunity to join its editorial team. Ideally you will have taken your NCE preliminary exams, but training will be provided.

You must be highly motivated, have a determination to learn quickly and succeed, and be prepared to play a key role in a friendly newsroom. You must not be shy of responsibility and have gained some experience within the local newspaper industry.

Serving our weekend titles, Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday, you will also work for our midweek e-editions and our websites. The role will require hard work, bags of energy, enthusiasm, and a real love of local newspapers and serving our loyal readers.

Send a CV and covering letter to:
Chris Britcher, Editor (News)
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or email: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Full Time Ironing Supervisor
Full & Part Time Cleaners & Ironers
REQUIRED
Maidstone area. Driving Licence Essential.
Please call Vicky 01622 870111
or e-mail iron-maids.co.uk

PART TIME CARE DOMESTIC
Required in Westgate
Please call Debbie or Diane
Tel: 01843 831491

JobsforKent.co.uk

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

TOWNSCAPE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

Folkestone
Salary: £25,620 - £30,201 plus essential car user allowance
Shepway is a coastal district undergoing a transformation through a range of public and private sector initiatives. To complement this activity, the district is keen to ensure that the urban environment across all its towns is improved. As such, a new post has been created within the Economic Regeneration Team to tackle townscape issues.
Your role will be to develop a Townscape Improvement Strategy for the district in collaboration with partner organisations and implement it through a wide range of initiatives. Application details on this exciting new position can be accessed via www.shepway.gov.uk or alternatively if you would like to discuss this post, please contact Jeremy Whittaker, Economic Regeneration Team Leader on 01303 853375.The closing date for applications is 4 March 2011 Provisional Interview date is 18 March 2011.
To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
jobs@shepway.gov.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre

Data Entry Clerks

Canterbury, Maidstone, Dover
Salary £250 Per Week
Data Entry Clerks needed in our Clients Offices in Canterbury / Maidstone / Dover to enter data onto a database. Data Entry Skills required. Will also be answering calls from businesses / companies and checking emails. We are an Data Processing Company with Offices throughout the UK.
£250 Per Week Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm. Immediate Start. To Apply please email your CV to dataworks@job4u.com or Text your name & number to our Office Mobile 07951 479238.
To apply/more information:
Dataworks Ltd
dataworks@job4u.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

Graduate Teacher Training Programme

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
headteacher@
westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TEACHER OF FRENCH

Tonbridge
Salary Negotiable
TEACHER OF FRENCHFULL TIME Required for September 2011We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Teacher of French. The successful candidate will be delivering GCSE French as part of our English Baccalaureate. Hugh Christie Technology College is a good school with outstanding features. Located in a total new build, the school has a national and international reputation for the use of technology and curriculum innovation. For further information contact Jenny Rutherford jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk Closing date for applications: 18th March 2011Interviews to be held: week commencing 28th March 2011We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. As part of this process, all successful candidates will be required to apply for an enhanced CRB disclosure.
To apply/more information:
Hugh Christie Technology College
jrutherford@
hughchristie.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teacher of Science

The Folkestone School for Girls
Salary Mainscale
TEACHER OF SCIENCE (Mainscale) Required to start 1st September 2011. We are seeking an enthusiastic, energetic, well qualified Science Teacher to join our successful and well resourced Science Department. The person appointed must be able to teach all three Sciences to KS4 and be able to offer at least one Science to A level standard. They should also be keen to stretch students of all ages and abilities in this 11-18 girls grammar school. We welcome applications from both experienced teachers and NQTs. Details of this position and an application form are available on our website www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk or by email: sdunster@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk Closing Date: Tuesday 15th March 2011. Successful candidates will be notified by Tuesday 22nd March 2011.
To apply/more information:
Folkestone School For Girls
sdunster@
folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KoS

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Fencing Installers

South East Area
Salary Negotiable
PEMBURY FENCING LTDSUB-CONTRACT Fencing Installers required for work in the SOUTH EAST AREA Must have own vehicle, tools and plant. References required Please ring 01480 474400 or email Sonia@pemburygroup.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Pembury Group
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TROWEL TRADES TECHNICIAN

Broadstairs
Salary £7,990-£8,896
TROWEL TRADES TECHNICIAN Salary scale: £7,990-£8,896 for 18.5 hours per week all year The college is looking to recruit a Trowel Trades Technician to provide support and assistance to staff and students in the workshops as appropriate. Job reference: TTT001Closing date: Wednesday 18th March 2011 For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on Vacancies. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052.
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: TTT001

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

Health, Safety & Environmental Technician

North Kent
Salary c£24,500 plus benefits
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1723

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Wellness Coaches

Work from Home
Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
A REWARDING NEW CAREER IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS Personal Wellness Coaches required P/T hours to suit-work from home Full Training and Support available £1,000.00+ per mnth Call Estelle on 01622 664861 www.arribakent.biz
To apply/more information:
Arriba
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Business Development Manager

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Eurocell
recruitment@eurocell.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Domiciliary Care Workers

Canterbury & Thanet
Salary £7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays
Bluebird Care (Canterbury & Thanet) have immediate vacancies in the Canterbury area for ...Domiciliary Care Workers Must want to work to the highest possible standards, experience of caring for adults or children is desirable. You should be available for work mornings or evenings and alternate weekends and must have own transport. You will ideally have a relevant qualification or be prepared to work towards one. Uniform provided.£7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays Mileage paid @ 30pence per mile. Please telephone 01843 570638 or 01227 206473; or email Canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk for an application pack stating which post you wish to apply for.
To apply/more information:
Bluebird Care
canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TROWEL TRADES TECHNICIAN

Broadstairs
Salary £7,990-£8,896
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: TTT001

TEACHER OF FRENCH

Tonbridge
Salary Negotiable
TEACHER OF FRENCHFULL TIME Required for September 2011We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Teacher of French. The successful candidate will be delivering GCSE French as part of our English Baccalaureate. Hugh Christie Technology College is a good school with outstanding features. Located in a total new build, the school has a national and international reputation for the use of technology and curriculum innovation. For further information contact Jenny Rutherford jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk Closing date for applications: 18th March 2011Interviews to be held: week commencing 28th March 2011We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. As part of this process, all successful candidates will be required to apply for an enhanced CRB disclosure.
To apply/more information:
Hugh Christie Technology College
jrutherford@
hughchristie.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
SUPPORT WORKERS Required To assist in the provision of complete range of social,physical and personal care to adults with learning and physical disabilities, with the aim to enhance their independence in all areas. Position part-time. Varied hours. Need to drive due to rural location in between Sittingbourne and Faversham. For more information contact Sally BrooksTel: 01795 886220 or email: ellenscourt@btconnect.com
To apply/more information:
Country Care
ellenscourt@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Day Carers

Broadstairs
Salary Negotiable
Port Regis Residential Care Home for the elderly in Broadstairs Require Day Carers Full time or Part time Tel: 01843 602266.
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Residential Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Collectors & Canvassers

East Kent
Salary Self Employed position
To apply/more information:
Pilgrims Hospice
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Distributors Wanted
Run your own business without the usual risks... and help people save money! choose your own hours. full training and support. up-front bonuses. earn a second income. on-going commission. no stock to carry. Find out more! Call: 0800 781 2433 www.minibills.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Scientific & Pharmaceutical, Research

Chemist 3 - 6 month temp shift chemist

North Kent
Salary c£14/hour plus retention bonus
Providing 12 hour, 7 day analytical service working 42 hour week 6am-6pm or 7am-7pm on flexible rota - Lone working weekends. Purpose of role is to ensure all assays/analysis are carried out to timelines according to H & S legislation. Preparation, analysis and calibration of samples, solutions and equipment. Applicants require a deg in Analytical Chemistry/Chemistry with 2 - 3 years experience in OES, AA, ICP and Wet Chemical Analysis plus production / process experience.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1724

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

Thamesview SCHOOL

with Business and Enterprise status

Headteacher:
Rhiannon Hughes NB.Ed. Hons

ARE YOU A UK GRADUATE IN ENGLISH, MATHS, SCIENCE OR FRENCH?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?

We are delighted to be offering four GTP placements, one in each of the subject areas listed above, under the GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME at Thamesview School for a September 2011 start. The placement is run in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University and leads to full Qualified Teacher Status on successful completion of the training programme.

Thamesview is an 11-16 non-selective Foundation High School. It is located in a pleasant area of Gravesend surrounded by open space and farmland with views of the River Thames to the north east, close to London and with easy access to airports, Ebbsfleet International Station and the Channel Tunnel.

We were fortunate to be in the last wave of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, which was the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. Our new-build school, which opened fully in September 2010 is state-of-the art, and designed to motivate and engage our learners. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

If you think these roles sound exciting, Please contact: 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information.

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Closing Date: Monday 14th March 2011.

Interviews: Week Commencing Monday 21st March 2011.

Successful candidates will be invited for interview at the school and our recommendations will then be passed to Canterbury Christ Church University. The University will then select candidates for further interview.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.

Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

Thamesview SCHOOL

with Business and Enterprise status

Headteacher:
Rhiannon Hughes NB.Ed. Hons

TEACHER OF HAIRDRESSING
(Maternity Cover)

Required for an immediate start
Salary – Unqualified Teachers Scale

Are you:

- An enthusiastic and imaginative practitioner, who is passionate about teaching and learning?
- Someone who has high aspirations for students, and can contribute new and innovative ideas to curriculum development?
- Looking to join a strong, supportive and forward thinking vocational team?
- Eager to work in a new salon and school environment?
- Keen to take a lead in developing the curriculum in your specialist area?

This is an excellent opportunity to develop your teaching skills and to be part of many new initiatives started by our outstanding vocational team. Flexible working hours will be required.

Thamesview is an 11-16 non-selective Foundation High School. It is located in a pleasant area of Gravesend surrounded by open space and farmland with views of the River Thames to the north east, close to London and with easy access to airports, Ebbsfleet International Station and the Channel Tunnel.

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Closing Date: 14th March 2011

Interviews: Week commencing 21st March 2011

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.

Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

Rainham School for Girls
(A Specialist Technology College & Training School)
Derwent Way, Rainham
GILLINGHAM Kent ME8 0BX
(NOR 1532)

Head Teacher: Ms K Roberts

Full Time Caretaker

Required from 1st April 2011 37 hours per week. Salary £15,039 - £16,440 plus regular overtime (one regular evening per week and on call one weekend in four)

Rainham School for Girls represents a culture of high aspiration, high expectation and success. Our aim is to provide an outstanding learning experience for all students within a safe, disciplined and caring environment.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from Mrs P Collins, PA to the Headteacher. Tel. 01634 362746, Fax: 01634 388334. email: pcollins@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: Thursday 17th March 2011

Part Of The Kemnal Academies Trust

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teachers from only £155 + VAT

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Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

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- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA EDUCATION RESOURCING (Agy)

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The smart way to find a job in the County

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND AT SIMONE WEIL AVENUE, ASHFORD**

I am giving notice that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on Monday 18 April 2011 at 10:00am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highways rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford, as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1XQ.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact John Farmer of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247800 (24 hour contact centre) or by e-mail to john.farmer@kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD, DRELLINGORE, DOVER)
(50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011**

NOTICE is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the Order will extend the existing 50 mph speed limit. The length of road described below encompasses the existing length of 50 mph speed limit and the proposed new length of 50 mph speed limit.

Name of Road	Length of Road
Alkham Valley Road	From the junction with Lockering Lane to a point 125 metres north east of the junction with Hockley Sole Lane

Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover and Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 4 April 2011.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

HENLEY STREET, LUDDESDOWNE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Henley Street, Luddesdowne for the entire length.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Sole Street, The Street Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Luddesdown Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate soak away cleansing.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 7) ORDER 2010**

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce parking bays on the southern side of Cross Lane East, Gravesend on the length fronting Nos 1 Echo Square westwards to include Echo Court.

The Order was sealed on 9 March 2011 and will come into force 14 March 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Gravesham and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made there under have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, FANT, MAIDSTONE)
(WIDTH LIMIT) ORDER 2011**

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to 3, 3(2) and 4) and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will prohibit any vehicle the width of which, inclusive of any load on the vehicle, exceeds 6 feet 6 inches, except for access, to proceed on the following length of road, subject to exemptions for emergency services, maintenance, etc. and statutory undertakers carrying out work on the affected length of the road. Any vehicle authorised by the Highway Authority will also be exempt from the proposed Order.

Lengths of road

Bower Lane	Entire length
Hever Gardens	Entire length
Bower Place	Entire length
Orchard Place	Entire length
Evelyn Road	Entire length
Newton Close	Entire length

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone and Sessions House County Hall, Maidstone, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing for the attention of Network Performance Team, 1st Floor Invicta House, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX by noon on Monday 4 April 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	**Temporary One Way Order** Eastbound from 14.00 – 20.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road.

Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 14.00 – 20.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.

Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between W J Kings Garage, London Road, Farnigham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane
Extent 2:	Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Restriction:	No Right Turn.
1:	Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
2:	Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

Dates: 3rd April, 25th April, 24th July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October and 9th October 2011.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

DAWES ROAD, DUNKIRK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dawes Road, Dunkirk, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 9 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Staplestreet Road and Stoney Road.

The alternative route is via Staplestreet Road, Canterbury Road, Boughton Hill, Canterbury Road and Courtenay Road.

BANISTER HILL & HEARTS DELIGHT, BORDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow BT access to an underground structure in the road, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Banister Hill & Hearts Delight, Borden, on or after 14 March 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Borden Lane and Hearts Delight Road.

The alternative route is via The Street, Pond Farm Road, Sutton Baron Road and Wrens Road.

It is planned the road will be closed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm and re-opened outside these hours.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

**VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Margate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 25 weeks or until the works have been completed.

DANE HILL, MARGATE will be closed at the junction with Dane Road, from 28 March for up to 3 weeks.
The alternative route is via King Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square and Northdown Road.
The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access only.

KING STREET, MARGATE will be closed between the junctions with Dane Road and Hawley Street.
From 18 April 2011 for up to 10 weeks.
The alternative route is via Addington Street, Union Crescent and Hawley Street

DANE HILL, MARGATE – will be closed for its entire length, from 27 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks.The alternative route is as shown above, with the One-way Traffic Order suspended to allow access only.

DANE HILL GROVE, MARGATE will be closed for its entire length, from 18 July 2011 for up to 2 weeks.
There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and businesses and signposted on site.

PARAGON STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Paragon Street, Ramsgate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 4.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Royal Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Paragon Street will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, TONBRIDGE AND MALLING)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2010**

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the effect of:-

1. introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the junction of Alexander Grove and Milton Lane, Kings Hill, West Malling;
2. introducing "school keep clear" markings in Alexander Grove in the vicinity of the Kings Hill School, West Malling in the interest of public safety to all pedestrians crossing this road gaining access to and from the school.

The Order was sealed on 4 March 2011 and will come into force 14 March 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough 0f Tunbridge Wells

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, SPELDHURST)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2011**

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act of 1984") and as amended by the Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of road in the village of Speldhurst:-

PENSHURST ROAD NORTHFIELDS	SOUTHFIELDS ST MARY'S LANE	BARDEN ROAD FURZFIELD AVENUE

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Town Hall, Civic Way, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed order you should send the grounds in writing to, Network Performance Team, 1st Floor Invicta House, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1xx by noon on Monday 4 April 2011.

**Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent**

**For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – Borough of Maidstone

BELTRING LEVEL CROSSING GRAVELLY WAYS YALDING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Beltring Leval crossing Gavelly Way Yalding on or after Saturday 2nd April 2011 ((at 22030) until Monday 4th April 2011 (at 04.00am) for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Gravelly Ways, Lees Road, Hampstead Lane, Maidstone Road , Boyle Way, Branbridges Road and Gravelly Ways and vice versa.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to enable a level crossing inspection. Should you require any further information the Mel Speight on 01924 371 967

HIGHWAYS – District of Sevenoaks

BILLET HILL, ASH-CUM-RIDLEY – (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Billet Hill, Ash-Cum-Ridley between Fawkham Green Road to Ash Road.

The Order will become effective on 14th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Crowhurst Lane, A20 London Road, Ash Lane, South Ash Road and The Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

GRANVILLE ROAD, SEVENOAKS – (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Granville Road, Sevenoaks from its junction with London Road to the boundary of Granville Court.

The Order will become effective on 14th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Gordon Road, Argyle Road, London Road and Tubs Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate working space for the construction of a new highway retaining structure.

Highways – Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

(LOWER HAYSDEN LANE TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lower Haysden Lane Tonbridge between junction of Upper Haysden Lane and Hayesden Lane and the southern boundary of number 2 Great Haysden on or after Monday 14th March 2011 or a period of up to 1 week such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Upper Haysden Lane , Lower Haysden Lane and vice versa..

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to repair a broken highway drainage pipe to prevent highway flooding and road surface deterioration.
Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is
Sarah Fletcher on 08458 247 800.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Blue Pigeons at Worth, The Street, Worth, Deal**
Applicant: **Marilyn Mellins**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Saint Ronans School, Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
Applicant: **John Buckles**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/00547/HOUSE **The Cottage The Green, Brenchley**
- Single storey rear extension (LB)(CA)

11/00484/FUL **Land Between 1 And 11 Broadcroft, Broadwater**
- Extension of time - Three detached dwellings (planning permission TW/07/03046 refers) (CA)

11/00493/FUL **10 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Roof lantern to existing ground floor rear flat roof, alterations to existing double doors and windows to rear. New driveway access and drop kerb (CA)

11/00507/FUL **22 Mount Ephraim Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Conversion from office use to residential use (CA)(LB)

11/00509/LBC **22 Mount Ephraim Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion from office use to residential use (LB)

11/00569/FUL **OS Plot 5250 Rear Of Gould Farm, Frittenden**
- Change of use of land to equestrian and erection of stable/garage building. Addition of hardstanding and gate (LB)

11/00466/HOUSE **5 Cliffe Cottages North Road, Goudhurst**
- Retrospective - Erection of decked terrace (CA)(LB)

11/00245/FUL **4 - 5 Deanborough House Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use from A1 (Shops) to A3 (Cafes) (CA)

11/00504/LBC **Old Nevergood Farmhouse Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Like for like replacement of 4 window frames (LB)

11/00506/FUL **The Tower And Belfry Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst**
- Conversion of existing single (tower) flat into two separate flats and internal alterations to the Belfry flat (LB)

11/00510/LBC **The Tower Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst**
- Listed building consent - Conversion of existing single (tower) flat into two separate flats and internal alterations to the Belfry flat (LB)

11/00528/HOUSE **Stable Cottage Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst**
- Enlargement of rear dormer (LB)

11/00535/LBC **12 - 14 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - relocate staircase in original position, remove modern alterations and fittings and fitout including finishes, mechanical and electrical installations. Retain existing shopfront and internal walls (LB)

11/00449/HOUSE **6 Shandon Close Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Extension to front, side and rear including internal and external modernisation (CA)

11/00472/FUL **72 - 74 Calverley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Retrospective - Replacement of security gate on front elevation (CA)

11/00562/HOUSE **West Lodge Chilston House, Park**
- Proposed rear single storey extension, new entrance portico and replacement roof to garage (CA)

11/00580/CAC **2 The Ferns Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of garden wall (CA)

11/00527/HOUSE **23 Upper Street Rusthall, Rusthall**
- Parking space to front of dwelling (CA)

11/00402/LBC **Old Place Church Road, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Replace rotten timber sash windows with double glazed timber sash windows on front elevation (LB)

11/00446/FUL **Oaklands Farm Bodiam Road, Sandhurst**
- General purpose agricultural building and installation of package treatment plant (PROW)

11/00537/TELN5 **High Brooms Station Car Park North Farm Road, Sherwood**
- Telecommunication Notification - Replacement of existing 15 metre high Vodafone installation with a 15.3 metre high installation, and replacement of 1 no. equipment cabinet and related development (MAST)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 12 March 2011

COUNCIL NOTICES

REGULATION OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 SCHEDULE 3

NOTICE IS GIVEN that on 23 February 2011 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council passed a resolution adopting the amendments to the above Act as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009 for the regulation of Sexual Entertainment Venues within the district. Such provisions will come into force on 1 April 2011 the first appointed day.

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Vauxhall ups the Antara

First **Drive**

by **IAIN DOOLEY**

Vauxhall **Antara**

AS ANY car executive will tell you, moving with the times is key to survival. Market trends and customer buying habits change so often now that the you can't stand still for even a moment.

When it was first launched, Vauxhall's Antara allowed the brand to move into the expanding 'soft-roader' market. The car's chunky looks and smart blend of Vauxhall design added a sense of familiarity to its go (almost) anywhere abilities thanks to the inclusion of all-wheel drive.

Second time around, and the Antara retains its trademark purposeful looks, although there's been a general tidy up fore and aft: new lights, grille. It also gains an electronic parking brake and a new diesel engine in two states of tune plus the option of front-wheel drive. Mechanically these options fit well with the current focus on lower emissions and fuel consumption. A predictable but welcome refining of the car's on-road behaviour also forms part of the update package.

Aside from the on-paper changes, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the Antara is a spacious and accommodating car. What does come as a surprise is that it rivals some full-size SUVs for a general feeling of roominess, despite boasting a similar sized footprint to a conventional family estate.

The Antara's cabin also boasts a more up-market ambience. The use of quality plastics and contrasting trim materials have done much to boost the car's aesthetic appeal.

There's a school of thought that believes such a policy will help lure customers away from more expensive premium SUVs as some buyers choose to downsize for cost-saving reasons. Certainly, the general fit, finish and overall feel of the Antara's revised cabin lends considerable weight to this argument.

Out on the road the Antara corners well with a minimum of body roll and stops with little effort. The car's ride is generally compliant but Vauxhall's engineers have opted for a slightly firm setup to boost driver enjoyment. And, even with big wheels fitted, the Antara copes well with the usual urban hazards.

Normally at this point it would be time to talk about the car's all-wheel drive performance. However, in line with an increasing number of rivals, front-wheel drive is now an option. Predictably this is a great choice for buyers who will never venture away from the security of Tarmac and are relatively undemanding when it comes to towing caravans or trailers. The trade off is a modest improvement in fuel consumption and CO2 emissions from the Antara's 2.2-litre diesel engine.

Effective

For some, though, the attraction of all-wheel drive is easy to justify. In reality the Antara's 'on demand' system offers the best of both worlds anyway. Only working when it's needed, the system is smart, effective and quick to respond, meaning the driver needn't worry too much about changing conditions.

Ordinarily, power is sent to the front wheels, but when a loss of grip is detected that balance can change to as much as 50 per cent to the rear wheels depending on the conditions. Factor in hill descent control and you're all set for that muddy hill ahead.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the new 2.2-litre diesel engine. This Euro 5 specification motor can be had with either 163 or 184 horsepower, with the former also available for front-drive variants.

Aside from power outputs, the engines also boast wallet-friendly economy credentials. The low power unit combines 44.8mpg with a CO2 rating of 167g/km. The high power option delivers 42.8mpg and 175g/km CO2.

Both prove exceptionally quiet and refined on the road and lack the rattly attributes still a feature of some rivals' engines. Acceleration is brisk, especially with the 184 horsepower Antara, and the standard fit six-speed manual gearbox can be swapped for a six-speed auto – both new for the Antara.

Available in two trim levels and packing a considerable amount of standard fit safety and comfort equipment, Vauxhall's revised Antara offers drivers a refined and enjoyable driving experience.

As an alternative to a conventional family car, the five-seat SUV's practical cabin easily accommodated an active lifestyle, while the all-wheel drive element will be the icing on the cake for anyone seeking break away from the beaten track.

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2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles, £17,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £16,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles, £15,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles, £14,995
2010(60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles, £13,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 1000 miles, £12,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles, £12,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 500 miles, £11,995
2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £10,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £10,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £10,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles, £9,995
2009(59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles, £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles, £9,995
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles, £9,995
2010(10) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 6000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles, £9,495
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles, £9,495
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles, £9,495
2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,995
2010(60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles, £7,995
2009(59) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1100 miles, £6,495

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles, £23,995
2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles, £19,995
2008(08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles, £18,995
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles, £9,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £8,995
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,995

NEW FIESTA

2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles, £12,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £11,995
2009(58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £8,995
2008(08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles, £6,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £10,995
2008(58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles, £9,995
2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles, £8,995
2008(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, £6,995
2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles, £6,495
2007(57) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 21000 miles, £5,995
2005(54) FORD FOCUS LX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £4,995

FOCUS ESTATES

2007(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £6,495

RENAULT SCENIC

2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £16,995
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles, £7,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles, £7,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles, £6,995

RENAULT

2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles, £9,995
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles, £9,995
2008(08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles, £8,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £8,995
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 300 miles, £7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles, £7,495
2008(08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles, £6,995
2006(56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles, £6,995
2008(57) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £6,495
2005(05) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles, £3,995

CHEVROLET

2008(08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, £6,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles, £6,995
2009(09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £6,995
2009(58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles, £6,995
2009(59) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1100 miles, £6,495
2008(57) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles, £5,495
2008(56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, £4,995
2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles, £4,495
2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £4,495
2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles, £4,495

HYUNDAI

2008(58) HYUNDAI MATRIX COMFORT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles, £6,995
2008(58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £6,995
2009(59) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, RED, 7000 miles, £6,495
2006(56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles, £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles, £5,995
2007(57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, £5,995
2007(57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £5,995
2007(07) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles, £5,495
2004(54) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £4,495
2006(06) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles, £3,995
2002(51) HYUNDAI AMICA SI 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 31000 miles, £2,495

KIA

2009(09) KIA CEED GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £8,995

DAIHATSU

2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £6,495
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £5,995
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles, £5,995

BMW

2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles, £19,995
2008(08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles, £18,995

FIAT

2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles, £9,495

FUSION

2010(10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles, £9,995
2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles, £7,995
2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles, £7,495
2006(56) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £5,995

CITROEN

2007(57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles, £5,995

CORSA

2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £10,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles, £9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles, £9,495
2009(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles, £8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles, £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles, £8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles, £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles, £7,495
2005(54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles, £5,495

MAZDA

2008(58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles, £9,995
2008(08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles, £8,995
2006(56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, £6,495
2007(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles, £5,995

SUZUKI

2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles, £9,495
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,495

TOYOTA

2007(57) TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £12,995
2010(10) TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, PURPLE, 6000 miles, £9,495
2007(57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £8,995
2008(58) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles, £7,995
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles, £7,995
2005(54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £7,495
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles, £7,495
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles, £6,995
2007(07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles, £6,995
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £6,995
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 25000 miles, £6,495
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles, £5,495

NISSAN

2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles, £19,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £17,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles, £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 7000 miles, £15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £15,495
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, £14,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 1000 miles, £12,995
2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles, £12,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 500 miles, £11,995
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 6000 miles, £9,995
2009(59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles, £9,995
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles, £8,495
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £8,495
2010(60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles, £7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles, £7,995
2010(59) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 11000 miles, £6,495
2006(56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles, £5,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles, £4,995
2002(02) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 10000 miles, £2,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles, £15,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles, £14,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £11,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £9,495
2010(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £9,495
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles, £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles, £8,995
2009(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 30000 miles, £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles, £7,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 14000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles, £5,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles, £5,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £5,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £7,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £6,995
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 16000 miles, £6,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles, £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles, £12,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £10,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN DIRECT MPV AUTO, BLUE, 850 miles, £10,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £8,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles, £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 11000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £6,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles, £5,995
2004(54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles, £3,995

PEUGEOT

2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles, £9,495
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles, £6,995

MITSUBISHI

2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles, £6,995

HONDA

2008(57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, £17,995
2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles, £16,995
2006(06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles, £11,995
2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles, £10,995
2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles, £10,495
2007(07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles, £8,995
2004(54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles, £6,495
2003(03) HONDA CIVIC SE EXECUTIVE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 49000 miles, £4,995

MERCEDES

2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles, £23,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles, £13,995
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £13,995
2010(60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles, £13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles, £12,995
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE LWB 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, £10,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles, £9,995
2007(56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £8,995
2002(02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles, £7,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2008(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles, £11,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA S TDI TD SALOON AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles, £9,995
2006(06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £9,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £9,995
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles, £7,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles, £7,495

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles, £19,995
2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £16,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles, £12,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles, £12,995

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2006(06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles, £7,995
2006(56) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS LUNA TDI 5DR TD HATCH, BLUE, 20000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles, £5,995
2005(55) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles, £5,995
2006(06) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH, MAUVE, 35000 miles, £5,495
2008(08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles, £5,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles, £5,495
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles, £5,495
2007(07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles, £4,995
2007(07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles, £4,995
2003(03) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles, £4,695
2005(05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles, £3,995
2004(04) PEUGEOT 206 SE 5DR HATCH, MOONSTONE SILVER, 36000 miles, £3,995
2003(53) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, TONIC BLUE, 44000 miles, £3,995

QASHQAI

2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles, £20,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles, £19,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles, £19,995
2010(59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £19,495
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £17,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles, £17,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles, £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 7000 miles, £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £15,495
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, £14,995
2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles, £12,995

SKODA

2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £8,995

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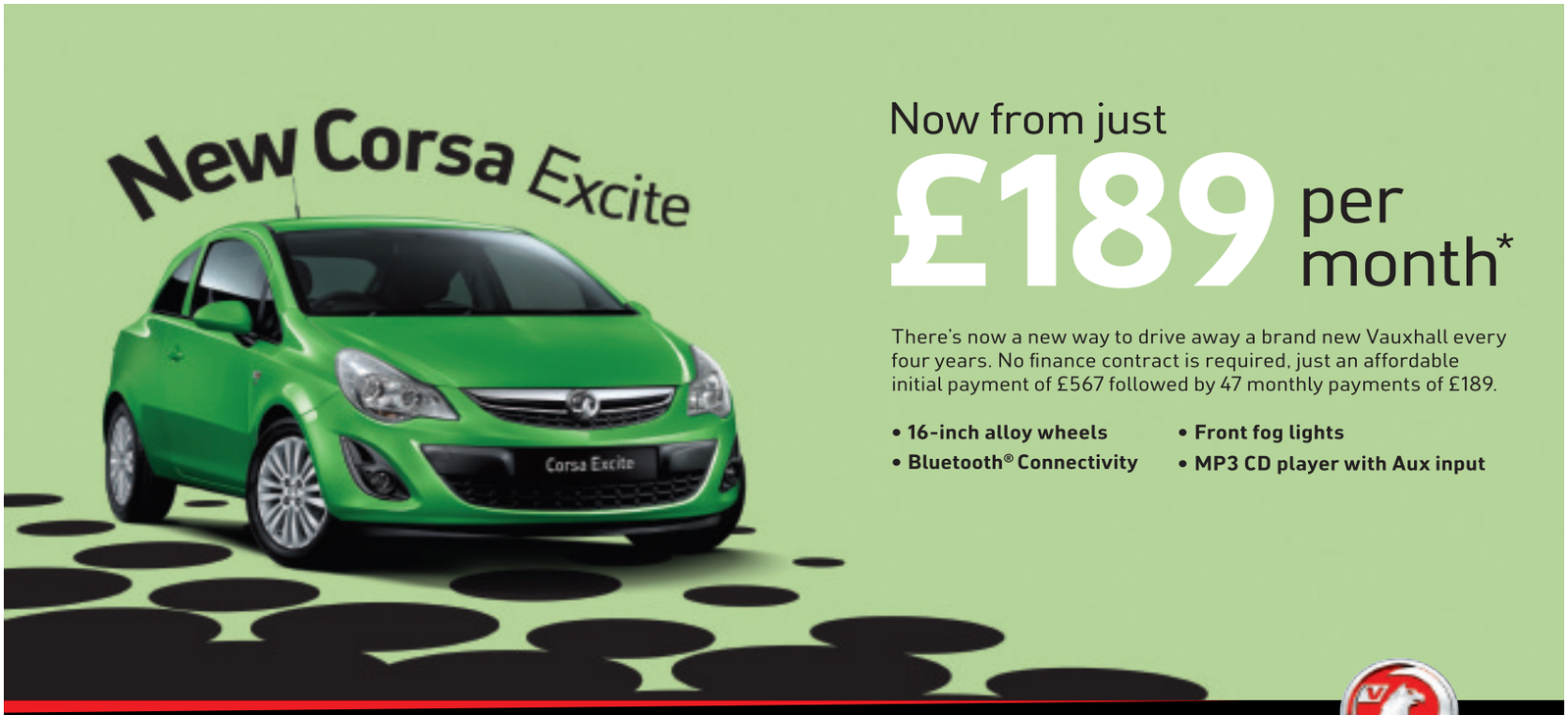
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Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). New Corsa Excite 1.0i 12v ecoFLEX. Urban: 44.8 (6.3), Extra-urban: 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions: 117g/km.

* Offer available to individuals for orders received between 01.02.11 and 31.03.11. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 48 months and 6,000 miles per year (max). An advance rental of £567 is payable, then 47 monthly rentals of £189. Rentals and excess charges are based on the current VAT rate. An excess charge of up to 6.38 ppm will be applied for mileage in excess of 6,000 mile p.a. Excess charges also apply if the car is not serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and returned to Vauxhall Leasing in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Package includes R.F.L. and Vauxhall Assistance. Offer subject to availability and status. UK supplied vehicles only. For full specification, details, terms and conditions contact your local retailer. Guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Personal contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA.

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07 57	ASTRA DESIGN ESTATE AUTO 1.8 5DR Metro Blue	£7495
08 57	ASTRA SXI 1.4 3DR Flame Red	£7695
08 08	ASTRA SXI 1.6 5DR Panacotta	£7995
05 55	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Flame Red	£9495
09 59	ASTRA ACTIVE SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£9995
10 10	ASTRA SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Red	£10995
10 60	ASTRA SRI 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£11495
10 10	ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6 5DR Technical Grey	£11995
10 60	ASTRA SRI SPORTS HATCH 1.6 3DR White	£11995
08 08	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Arden Blue	£12695
10 10	ASTRA SRI TBO 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£13995
10 59	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Arden Blue	£15995

CORSA SELECTION

08 08	CORSA BREEZE 1.2 5DR Black Sapphire	£6995
08 58	CORSA BREEZE + 1.2 5DR Red	£7495
08 08	CORSA SRI TBO 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire	£8495
09 09	CORSA DESIGN 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£8995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White or Silver Lightning	£8995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£9495
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Flame Red or White	£9495
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Star Silver or Metro Blue	£9495
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue	£9995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.3 3DR Oriental Blue	£9995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Waterworld	£9995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White	£9995

CORSA SELECTION

10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Flame Red	£9995
10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£10350
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Metro Blue	£10995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Star Silver or Black Sapphire	£10995
10 10	CORSA SE 1.4 5DR Beech Green	£10995
10 10	CORSA EXCLUSIV AUTO 1.4 5DR Technical Grey	£11495
10 60	CORSA VXR 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire	£14995

INSIGNIA SELECTION

09 09	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 1.8 5DR Sovereign Silver	£10995
10 10	INSIGNIA SRI 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£14495
09 59	INSIGNIA SRI 4X4 2.0 5DR Black Sapphire	£15495
10 60	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 130PS 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£16495
10 60	INSIGNIA SPORTS TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£19495

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08 08	MERIVA CLUB 1.4 5DR Air Blue	£7250
10 60	MERIVA SE TBO 1.4 5DR Pepperdust	£14995
10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV TBO 1.4 5DR Star Silver	£14995
10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV CDTI 1.7D 5DR Waterworld	£16995

VECTRA SELECTION

08 58	VECTRA DESIGN 2.2 5DR Ultra Blue	£7495
08 08	VECTRA SRI 1.8 5DR Pomegranate Red	£8250
08 58	VECTRA SRI NAV X PACK AUTO CDTI 1.9D 5DR Star Silver	£9495

ZAFIRA SELECTION

03 53	ZAFIRA CLUB 1.8 5DR Ultra Blue	£3695
07 57	ZAFIRA CLUB E/T 1.6 5DR Black Sapphire	£7695
08 08	ZAFIRA BREEZE 1.6 5DR Silver Lightning	£7995
08 08	ZAFIRA BREEZE 1.6 5DR Metro Blue	£8495
09 59	ZAFIRA ACTIVE PLUS 1.8 5DR Ultra Blue	£11995

ZAFIRA SELECTION

10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£12995
10 60	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Silver Lightning	£13995
10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY CDTI 1.7D 5DR Star Silver	£14995
10 10	ZAFIRA SRI X PACK CDTI 1.9D 5DR Black Sapphire	£17995

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04 04	CITROEN C3 DESIRE HDP 1.4 5DR Silver	£3995
02 52	FORD FIESTA LX 1.4 5DR Silver	£3275
03 03	FORD FIESTA LX 1.2 5DR Silver	£3495
04 04	FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 5DR Metallic Blue	£3995
04 54	FORD KA LUXE 1.3 2DR Black	£3495
02 52	FORD MONDEO LX 1.8 5DR Silver	£2995
04 54	PEUGEOT 206 STYLE DIESEL 1.4 3DR Red	£3995
01 51	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.4 3DR Grey	£2995
04 53	RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.4 5DR Blue	£3275
02 02	SEAT IBIZA TD 1.9 D 3DR Red	£3345

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10 60	ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE 1.7D 3DR Star Silver	£11995+VAT
10 10	COMBO CDTI 1.3 5DR White	£7495+VAT
10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR Glacier White	£8495+VAT
10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 5DR Star Silver or White	£9495+VAT
10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 4DR Star Silver	£9995+VAT
08 08	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 5DR Star Silver	£6995+VAT
10 60	CORSAVAN 1.3 3DR White	£8495+VAT
10 60	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 3DR Star Silver	£9995+VAT
10 60	VIVARO DOUBLE CAB SPORTIVE LWB 2.0 5DR Star Silver	£15995+VAT
10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR Glacier White	£10995+VAT

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Hyundai stuns Geneva

HYUNDAI has confirmed that the D-segment in the motor market – popularly known as the Mondeo sector – is dominated increasingly by estate car models.

The ambitious Korean marque did so by using the current Geneva Motor Show for the world premiere of its new D-segment contender (pictured), the i40 and showing it only in estate or 'wagon' – it will arrive in the UK in this format soon, to be followed by a saloon later this year.

It's a sharp-suited offering penned by Hyundai's German-based design team, reflects the luxury-cum-lifestyle image of the modern estate car as it attempts to beat MPV and crossover models on the market.

It also boasts features unavailable on some rivals, including heated folding rear seats; an auto-defog system; and heated steering wheel.

Hyundai also showed off its groundbreaking all-new three-door Veloster coupe – it has a rear door on the passenger side for greater useability – this a stunning looking coupe that doesn't have to be a 'holidays and high days' purchase.

And Geneva allowed the marque to show its Curb concept – an eye-catching urban crossover that will almost certainly see production in some form.

And now a fresh dash of Picanto

KIA – Hyundai's sister brand – has unveiled an all-new version of its Picanto city car.

And while the current Picanto is available only as a five-door hatchback, the next generation version will be offered in a sportier three-door, too.

The marque, currently riding high on the media and market acclaim for its muscular Sportage SUV/crossover, has announced the new Picanto's four powertrains will also be fresh out of the box and with the low and competitive CO2 emissions levels now demanded by a greener motor market.



Fiat retains green status



FIAT and its associated brands continue to set new standards in CO2 reduction, according to JATO Dynamics, the world's leading automotive consultancy.

Fiat Automobiles itself logged a CO2 average of just 123.1 g/km (4.7 g/km less than the 2009 average), placing it top of all brands for the fourth year running, and well ahead of the European target of 130g/km, due to be met in 2015.

Fiat also ranked first among the motor groups with 125.9g/km, an improvement of five g/km on last year and taking into account brands such as Ferrari, Maserati and Alfa Romeo.

However, the Italian group's CO2 crackdown continues to be epitomised by its big-selling small cars such as the Fiat 500C pictured – just the kind of models that eco-conscious consumers are now turning to.

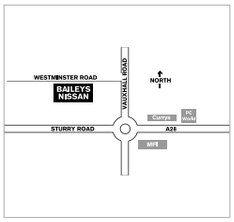
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*Refers to EXTRA URBAN fuel consumption figures – based on Micra 1.2 with manual transmission on a full tank of petrol. †Model shown is Micra 1.2 Tekna manual priced at £12,350 on the road plus optional metallic paint at £400 inc VAT. Information correct at time of going to press. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Fuel consumption figures for Nissan MICRA Range: CO_2 125-115g/km – URBAN 42.2-46.3mpg/6.7-6.1L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 61.4-65.7mpg/4.6-4.3L/100km – COMBINED 52.3-56.5mpg/5.4-5.0L/100km.

Mini **Test**

by

IAIN DOOLEY

Honda **Jazz**

Jazz refined to attract an even larger audience



BEST SELLER: The Honda Jazz is popular with buyers looking for more than just a supermini

IF YOU want a good example of a company that listens to its customers you have to look at Honda. Although the Japanese firm is well known for innovation, it's also keen to ensure it promotes a culture of happy drivers.

And there's no better example of this than the firm's Jazz. More than just a sleeper hit, the compact Jazz has proven to be a UK best seller. By choosing to develop something that was more than just another supermini, Honda struck a chord with buyers seeking something with a small footprint but with the flexibility and practicality of something much bigger.

Success

This revised second-generation car builds on the original model's success. Presenting a chunkier face to the world, Honda's engineers have added a few aerodynamic tweaks to boost cabin refinement and overall efficiency. The latter is important, as this element plus selective engines improvements have resulted in economy and emissions gains. It's also revised the car's ride and handling performance to boost driver appeal and cabin comfort.

Talking of green issues, this Jazz has the honour of being the first small production hybrid. Keen to broaden the appeal of such technology beyond its Insight model, the Jazz hybrid follows on from the Japanese firm's sporting CRZ petrol-electric model.

There's more good news in the shape of the reintroduction of a continuously variable transmission (CVT) as an option alongside the car's manual gearbox.

It might not sound like much, but the previously used automated manual transmission wasn't met with universal appeal.

As a result, Honda listened, took on board the feedback and now offers a CVT that should please buyers seeking a smoother experience akin to than of a conventional auto, but without the fuel economy penalties.

Existing Jazz owners will be familiar with the car's 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol engines, which now boast CO2 levels of 123 and 126g/km respectively in manual gearbox trim and return a combined fuel economy reading in the low 50s mpg. The hybrid borrows much from Honda's existing Insight model, right down to the CVT gearbox.

It manages 62.8mpg and boasts a lower 104g/km CO2 rating, the latter Honda claims is the lowest for an auto gearbox car in the Jazz's market sector.

On the road the petrol cars are as you would expect – willing, capable and refined. In 1.4-litre trim plus the new CVT gearbox, the Jazz is easy to drive and the 'box offers a welcome extra layer of refinement over its predecessor.

Furthermore, the traditional enemies of CVT-equipped cars – inclines and fast-moving motorway traffic – are no barriers to progress. There's plenty of power available to get you moving and maintaining a steady speed.

This is also the case for the hybrid Jazz. Even in 'Eco' mode there's enough thrust available for out of town excursions, while urban motoring is dispatched with predictable ease.

The easy-to-read instrument displays keep you informed regarding fuel consumption and the current combination of engine and electric power, which do a clever job of nudging you in the direction of more considered and smoother driving behaviour.

Good though it is on the road, there's more to the Jazz than the driving experience. Its versatile nature is another major attraction for buyers, and the car's folding rear seats offer a greater level of versatility than the little Honda's more conventional rivals.

From furniture to bicycles, the Jazz will swallow many of these items whole. And for anyone seeking a car with a modest footprint, this feature is often a deal breaker. It also happens to be a hit with the business market; drivers who carry a lot of equipment but don't want – or their company car policy doesn't allow – a large, high CO2 car can opt for a Jazz with complete confidence.

With its well built and versatile cabin, a good level of standard kit plus the various improvements to the driving and ownership experience, Honda's Jazz remains a tough act to beat. The hybrid model will please those wanting to pay less for their motoring, too.



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Vehicle shown is an Orlando 2.0 VCDi LTZ with metallic paint at an extra cost of £410, and an Executive Pack at an optional cost of £2,000. Under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme for new cars, a driver can get the use of an Orlando 2.0 VCDi LS for 3 years by paying the Fixed Weekly Rentals from the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, with an Advance Payment of £349. For applications approved by 31st March 2011. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement which will be taken in lieu of the monthly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. All figures correct at time of going to press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. (Chev106171)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Orlando range: Urban - 29.1 (9.7) - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 47.9 (5.9) - 57.7 (4.9), Combined - 38.7 (7.3) - 47.1 (6.0). CO_2 emissions 186 - 159g/km.



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†0% Typical finance example for Vauxhall Corsa Excite 1.2i 16v 3dr as advertised.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) – 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) – 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 – 94g/km.

† 5 years 0% finance on Corsa, Astra, Meriva and Insignia models = maximum finance balance £10,000. 5 years 0% finance on Zafira models = maximum finance balance £15,000. Finance supplied by Alpha Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. † Finance subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles only whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers apply to selected vehicles purchased and registered between 1st March 2011 and 31st March 2011 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only) All other sales categories are excluded. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 1000,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. A £99 inc. VAT admin fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.



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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën C3 VTi 120 AUTOMATIC Exclusive 9.6/29.4, 5.3/53.2, 6.9/40.9, 153. Lowest: Citroën C3 HDi 90 MANUAL Airdream+ 4.7/60.1, 3.3/85.6, 3.8/74.3, 99.

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First Payment	£99.50
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Total Payable	£7775
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Interest Rate (fixed)	0%
Representative APR	0%

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Final Payment	£3055.75
Total Payable	£8540
Duration (months)	37
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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) for the Picanto range are: Urban: 38.7 (7.3) - 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban: 57.6 (4.9) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 48.7 (5.8) - 58.8 (4.8). CO2 emissions are 137 - 114 g/km. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and conditions. Part exchange allowance is available on 7-10 year old vehicles, terms and conditions apply, ask at dealership for details. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE. 45848.

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55 Plate **Renault Laguna 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique**



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance
£3799	£1399	£2400
36 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	
£66.66	£3799	0% REPRESENTATIVE APR

0% APR Finance

05 Plate **Citroen Picasso 2.0 HDi Desire 2 5dr**



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance
£3999	£1399	£2600
36 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	
£72.22	£3999	0% APR

0% APR Finance

52 Plate **Renault Megane 1.6 16v Expression**



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance
£1999	£99	£1900
36 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	
£52.77	£1999	0% APR

0% APR Finance

05 Plate **Ford Ka 1.3i Collection**



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance
£3499	£1049.70	£2449.30
24 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	
£102.05	£3499	0% APR

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05 FORD KA HATCH 1.3I COLLECTION [70] 3DR (2002 - 2006) 38416 MILES £3499
10 FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC 3DR 10100 MILES £7999

FIESTA

57 FORD FIESTA HATCH 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 36451 MILES £7399
57 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCH ZETEC (2005) 5 DR 1.4 96PS STAGE V 63323 MILES .. £5899
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCH EDGE (2009) 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI (-) 7210 MILES £10999
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCH STYLE + (2009) 5 DR 1.25 82PS (-) 5334 MILES £9299
09 FORD FIESTA HATCH 1.25 STYLE + 5DR [82] (2008 - 2009) 18572 MILES £8499
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60 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCH 1.6 TDCI ZETEC S 3DR (2008 - 2010) 3467 MILES £13999
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCH 1.6 TDCI [95] ZETEC 3DR (2010 -) 4608 MILES £11499
10 FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE 3DR [82] 3043 MILES £9499
60 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCH 1.6 TDCI [95] ZETEC 3DR (2010 -) 22 MILES £12799
08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC BLUE 3DR 50556 MILES £5499
06 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE] 39411 MILES £4999
56 FORD FIESTA 1.6 ZETEC S 3DR 43238 MILES £5499
07 FORD FIESTA 1.4 GHIA 5DR 10000 MILES £5499

FOCUS

57 FORD FOCUS HATCH 1.6 LX 5DR (1998 - 1999) 26161 MILES £6799
55 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCH ZETEC CLIMATE 3 DR HATCH AUTO 2.0 13801 MILES . £5999
09 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCH ZETEC 5DR 1.6 DURATEC 100 PS STAGE IV 38014 MILES £8499
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCH 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 - 2010) 38488 MILES £9999
09 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCH TITANIUM (2009.5) 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 100 PS STAGE IV 38243 MILES £8799
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCH 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 - 2010) 39694 MILES £10299
07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [115] [CLIMATE PACK] 54346 MILES £5899
57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE 5DR AUTO 18484 MILES £5899
57 FORD FOCUS HATCH 1.8 ZETEC 5DR (2008 - 2010) 0 MILES £8299
60 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCH 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 - 2010) 9666 MILES £14499
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CMAX

57 FORD C-MAX PETROL ESTATE ZETEC (2007.5) 5-DR AUTO 2.0 DURATEC STG 4 145 PS 51318 MILES £6999

MONDEO

08 FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI 100 EDGE 5DR 86636 MILES £7999
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCH EDGE () 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 125PS 42549 MILES £8299
05 FORD MONDEO HATCH 1.8 ZETEC 5DR (2005 - 2007) 49587 MILES £5399
56 FORD MONDEO LX (2005) ESTATE 1.8I 16V 125PS SIII (-) 61278 MILES £5499
57 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TITANIUM X 5DR 62000 MILES £9799
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09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCH 2.2 TDCI TITANIUM X SPORT 5DR 15889 MILES £15499
59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCH 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR 36057 MILES £12499

GALAXY

10 FORD GALAXY DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 140 TITANIUM 5DR (2010 -) 20 MILES £21999

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57 LEXUS IS 250 SPORT 4DR 33684 MILES £11799
03 BMW 1 SERIES 120I SPORT 5DR 41753 MILES £7799
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTI 16V DESIGN [150] 5DR 34621 MILES £7999
02 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 2.5 TD5 ES 5 SEAT 5DR 74200 MILES £7399
55 RENAULT MEGANE DIESEL HATCH 1.5 DCI 86 DYNAMIQUE 5DR [EURO 4] (2005 - 2005) 49725 MILES £4999
02 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 S 65 3DR 57500 MILES £2999
06 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2I DIRECT DESIGN 5DR AUTO 46781 MILES £5899
55 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI EXCLUSIV [120] 5DR 78060 MILES £4699
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06 RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 VVT DYNAMIQUE 2DR 55478 MILES £3999
05 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 HDI DESIRE 2 5DR 77103 MILES £3999
08 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 16V SPORT 3DR 10865 MILES £7699

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz range in mpg (l/100km): Urban: 40.9 - 61.4 (6.9 - 4.6), Extra Urban 57.7 - 64.2 (4.9 - 4.4), Combined 50.4 - 62.8 (5.6 – 4.5). CO_2 emissions: 129 - 104 g/km. Model shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S. **Terms and Conditions:** Prices exclude metallic paint (£440). Offer valid on 12YM Jazz 1.2 S registered from 23 February to 30 March 2011. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. Subject to model, colour and stock availability. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Road Tax:** 12 months £0 cost for vehicles sub 130 CO2 emissions.

DrivingReview
by
DAVEMAIRS
Kia Ceed

Ceed proof there is nothing to concede when going green



YOU know how it is. You've got an exciting trip planned and you and your mates have a barrow-load of gear to take with you.

And at some point someone – invariably the sensible, boring one – mentions transport. Quite how you and your grizzled chums, along with rucksacks, seats, telescopes and tripods – we were going to watch whales from aboard the ferry to Bilbao – are going to cram into your little runabout hadn't occurred to you though.

After much casting around, we borrowed a Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi ISG. It is not a monster – think Ford Focus for size – but was larger than anything we had to hand.

As things worked out, travel plans changed and the whole operation became a two-car mission with just three in our vehicle. No bad thing though, as three people and their clobber was enough for this model.

We could have managed four, but it would have been a real squeeze and we might never have seen a pygmy-sized member of the party ever again.

However, as we all know, size isn't everything, as shown by the outstanding feature on the Ceed ISG – those last three letters are short for Intelligent Stop and Go.

The system works like this: when the car slows to below 3mph, say when approaching a junction or traffic lights, it stops. You select neutral and release the clutch and then simply restart when ready by depressing the clutch – 10 per cent, for the record, but I don't expect you to measure it – and away you go, smoothly and wholly efficiently.

We're talking Kia's EcoDynamics technology here: an official combined fuel consumption of 67.3mpg on this Ceed and CO2 emissions of just 110g/km that also qualifies the car for zero-rated road tax for year one and just £20/year thereafter.

In short, the less time your engine is running, the better it is for both your pocket and your beleaguered environment.

The scientific bit is not my world, but as a driver I can happily report that, once I'd got used to it, I grew rather fond of the ISG system. All was smooth, with no juddering, and it was easy to believe that here was a glimpse at a brave new (and not quite as dirty) world.

The Ceed range arrived in 2007; an all-new

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05 05 Renault Megane 1.9 Diesel 4DR

Light Met Green, two owners, service history, key card start up, alloy wheels, aircon, electric mirrors, alarm, CD, 27,120 miles, Dynamique 120 DCi
£4,695

07 07 Fiat Panda 1.2 Dynamic 5DR

Black, one owner, service history, central locking, electric mirrors, CD player, low insurance, pas, black/orange cloth interior, radio/CD, inspection welcome, 23,978 miles
£4,175

05 55 Vauxhall Combo Van 1.3 CDTi

White, one owner, 1248cc, diesel, grey cloth interior, central locking, immobiliser, remote driver air bag, pas, service history, side door loading, 53,500 miles
£3,750 +VAT

07 07 Chevolet Matiz SE 995cc

5door hatchback, two owners from new, grey cloth interior, abs, remote central locking, electric windows, pas, CD, full service history, low tax/insurance, Inspection welcome, 23,506 miles
£3,475

96 P 900 Saab SE Turbo Convertible

White with black power hood, leather interior, two owners, alloy wheels, remote central locking, alarm, service history, only 50,128 miles
£2,695

01 Y Peugeot 607 SE Auto

Two Owners, leather interior, lumber support, alloy wheels, pas, cruise control, full service history, abs, heated seats, park distance control, electric rear sunblind, 77,200 miles
£2,595

03 03 Fiat Punto 1.2 Sport

Two Owners, dark grey sport cloth interior, full service history, alloy wheels, central locking, electric windows, CD, abs, spoilers, front fog lamps, sport model, ideal first car 84,800 miles
£2,495

98 R Alfa Romeo 145 Cloverleaf

Two owners, alloy wheels colour coded mirrors, tinted glass, cd, alarm, immobiliser, central locking, electric windows / mirrors, pas, service history, sport model, 12 mths MOT
£1,195

01 51 Peugeot 406 LX 16v 1749cc

4 door saloon, green with grey velour interior, aircon, alarm, immobiliser, central locking, electric windows, pas, part exchange to clear, mot & taxed, 95,500 miles
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model and name, designed and built in Europe to attack Europe's finest – the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra – and featuring facets from all three, plus a mould-breaking seven-year/100,000-mile warranty as a significant extra.

This was the perfect lure for the most sceptical punters; once in the showroom, the curious could quickly see that the Ceed and its three-door Proceed and Ceed SW estate spin-offs are good products

Kia now concedes that the mega-warranty was a gamble that could have gone expensively wrong if the Ceed engineering team had messed up, but it didn't and all Kia models now come with a seven-year warranty.

Aware that the 2007-vintage Ceed could be fidgety on the road, Kia also boosted the handling and ride when it gave the car a facelift in 2010.

As for new kit, Kia says the car has an upgraded interior, though this looked about the same as before; no criticism though, since everything feels well-made and durable.

There are also exterior cosmetics, notably a far sleeker and more upmarket grille.

But ISG on the car's junior 89bhp 1.6-litre/six-speed manual diesel powertrain is the highlight of the revamp and using Kia's new green 'EcoDynamics' sub-branding with energy-saving tyres. Ceed prices start at £13,085.

DrivingPortfolio

KIA CEED 2 CRDI ECODYNAMICS 1.6 5-DR £15,600

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£20/year (zero year one)
Best rival	Seat Leon Ecomotive

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the Ceed's so-so image, even if it is great value

NOT SURE: the green Ceed is worth extra when the standard is so economical already

REALLY LIKE: how the Ceed highlights Kia's rapid progress and 'can do' image

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CAR OF THE WEEK

59 Plate. Skoda Octavia VRS 2.0 TDi
Finished in Black, 20,000 miles, £15,995

Used Cars

58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Black Magic Pearlescent with a Black Leather interior, 18,500 miles. £13,995

58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance DSG 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Anthracite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 19,200 miles. £12,995

08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Leather Interior, 22,870 miles. £12,795

05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

07 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Multicolour Velour - Leather interior, 35,250 miles. £10,995

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £8,995

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 14,900 miles. £7,495

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Black Metallic Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 25,100 miles. £7,295

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

56 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,700 miles. £4,995

05 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 23,750 miles. £4,995

Other Makes

58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. ~~£9,795~~ **£8,995 OFFER**

04 Plate. Ford Galaxy 1.9 TDI Zetec (115 PS) 5-Dr MPV
Finished in Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,510 miles. £5,795

08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Metallic Machine Silver, 12,500 miles. £4,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

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2004 04 SAAB 9-5 2.0T Vector, 4 Drs, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 73,000 Miles, BLACK, 2 Owners, Adjustable Steering Column/Wheel, Air Con, Anti Theft System, CD, Central Locking, Child Locks, Climate Control, Computer, Driver Airbag, Electric Mirrors/Windows, Multi Function Steering Wheel, Power Assisted Steering, Radio, Reading Lights, Alloys, Cruise Control, Headlight Washers, Passenger Airbag, Radio/Cassette, Side Airbags, Radio/CD, Traction Control, Alarm, Remote Control, Body Coloured Bumpers, Drivers Airbag, Electric Door Mirrors, Front Electric Windows, Front Fog Lights, Heated Door Mirrors, Isofix Child Seat Anchor Points, PAS, Rear Electric Windows, Remote Central Locking, Trip Computer, Cloth Seat Trim, Leather Seat Trim, Solid Paint, Partial Leather Seat Trim. Insurance Group: 13E **£4,295**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-3 2.2 TiD, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 95,000 miles, RED, 2 Owners. ABS, Central locking, Headlight washers, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Air con, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, CD, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Alarm, Power assisted steering, Multi function steering wheel, Partial leather seat trim, Leather seat trim, Solid Paint, Remote locking, Heated door mirrors, Computer, Electric mirrors, Driver airbag, PAS, Rear electric windows, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Rear wiper, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, Child locks, Electric windows, Full Service History, Climate Control, Remote central locking, Trip computer. 1 YEARS MOT, TAX AUGUST 2011 ..... **£2,995**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 4 Drs, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 102,941 miles, Metallic silver gray, 4 Owners, Heated door mirrors, ABS, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Alloys, Immobiliser, Sports chairs, Leather upholstery, Front electric windows/door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Driver airbag, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Air con, Climate Control seating, Child locks, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator, Electric mirrors, Remote locking. Insurance Group: 13E **£2,195**

2000 W Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T, 5 Drs, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 70,471 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. Heated door mirrors, Drivers airbag, Central locking, Trip computer, Passenger airbag, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cloth upholstery, Part Service History, Child locks, CD, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Radio/Cassette, Air con, Radio, Service indicator. Insurance Group: 13E **£1,995**

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This offer looks good – what's the catch?

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Q I would be grateful for your opinion of the new Post Office bond that pays a yield of 1.5pc on top of the rate of inflation. I have read the terms and as far as I can see, the only downside is that you cannot withdraw your money for five years without providing a good reason and paying a penalty. I am happy with this, so is there anything else that I have missed?
NR

A There are two things you may have missed. Firstly, the return on the Post Office bond may not be calculated in exactly the way you think. And secondly, there is at least one rival index-linked product you might consider. The Post Office (0800 169 7500) bond is a five-year investment, with the return to savers calculated every April. So, if you invest, say, £1,000 and the retail prices index in April next year shows an annual rise of 5pc, your £1,000 will grow by 5pc plus the guaranteed 1.5pc top-up, turning it into £1,065. Now, you might think that in Year Two, your return is based on £1,065. Wrong! Your money goes back to square one. The £65 you have earned is frozen, and you start again with £1,000. The profits are paid out only at the end of the full five years. They are not compounded to earn even more as you go along. Of course, you might regard this as a small blot on an otherwise pretty landscape. After all, there are not many index-linked investments to choose from. But there is one that has a couple of advantages of its own. Yorkshire Building Society's Protected Capital Account (0845 1200 100) pays the rate of inflation plus 0.1pc – but it pays income yearly throughout its five-year life. And, unlike the Post Office bond, you can hold this account as a tax-free Isa, which adds to the attraction. So if you want to draw an income or sidestep tax, this could be a better bet.

Q I have about £7,000 in a Natwest cash Isa, earning 0.5pc. Santander is offering 3.5pc. Should I take my money out of Natwest and open a Santander account? How can one bank pay so much more than another?

A Whatever you do, don't take your Isa money from Natwest and think you can simply deposit it with Santander. If you withdraw money from an Isa, it loses its tax-free status. To stay tax-free, arrange for your existing bank to transfer the cash directly to your new bank. You must not touch it. But should you transfer? You are not really comparing like with like. The statement you sent me shows you have a cheap-and-cheerful Isa with Natwest. It has a variable interest rate that could rise if rates generally go up, you can operate it at your branch, and you are allowed instant access. The Santander leaflet you sent me offers a fixed 3.5pc, not a variable rate. You invest by post, not at a branch, and this is a two-year account that ties you in until 2013. If you are happy with the different terms, that's fine. But if you want the easy access that you have now, a better option might be the Halifax Isa Direct Reward account. It offers instant access, can be operated through a branch and pays 3pc interest.

Q I have a small private pension plan that matures in May. My pension provider told me I have the option to look on the open market for an annuity. I have found a company that beats my original annuity quote. As these firms must be registered with the Financial Services Authority, are there any problems I should be aware of?

A Anyone saving in a private pension plan has the right to shop around on the open market before turning their retirement savings into an annuity. The company that has managed your pension investments might not offer the best value annuity, so it is good to see that you were actually reminded that you have this right. As all annuity firms go through the same licensing checks, and are covered by the same compensation scheme, there are no hidden dangers.

Q My son banked a cheque I gave him. The money has gone from my account but has not appeared in his. His bank says it is still in the system, a week after he deposited the cheque.

A Your son's bank should show the money as available for his use from the fourth working day after he deposited the cheque. Even including a weekend would only take us up to six days, so if your son has been waiting a week, something seems wrong. He should complain to the bank and if there is no explanation, he should contact the Financial Ombudsman (0800 0234 567).

Q Are student loan repayments just based on income, or could I be made to hand over some money I have inherited?

A Repayments are linked to your income and normally collected through the tax system. Your inheritance is not affected.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

Don't leave us hanging on – it's so annoying

Listening to hold music on the telephone or standing in long queues is something that winds many people up – and if it annoys you, you're unlikely to be cheered up by the revelation that we each spend an average of 33 weeks of our lives doing it.
A study by the Co-operative Bank has found that the average hold time per phone call is 10 minutes. That might be frustrating enough in itself, but some callers have been left twiddling their thumbs for more than an hour-and-a-half.
The top culprits for leaving customers on hold are dominated by television, internet and phone providers, domestic energy suppliers, banks and insurance companies.
The worst queues are at supermarkets, banks and post offices.
In the short term, such shabby customer service leads to anger and frustration.
Scots are apparently the least patient people when being made to wait on the phone, with callers typically hanging up after being left hanging on for about 20 minutes.
However, the research highlighted that consumers would vote with their feet if they were let down by poor service, with a third prepared to move their custom after being continually left on hold.
"We've all been there, waiting on the other end of the line or stood in line when all we want to do is speak with a human being and get our problem resolved, query answered or purchase paid for," said Robin Taylor, head of banking at the Co-op.
"However, customers don't need to put up with bad service like this.
"They can always switch to an alternative provider."



PLEASE HOLD..: On average we spend 33 weeks of our lives hanging on the telephone or waiting in queues.

Pensions changes 'a turning point'

By ADAM AIKEN
MyMoney24 editor

The announcement this week that the state pensions system is to be given a complete overhaul has received a broad welcome from analysts, with one expert branding it "a turning point".

Work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith said the existing system was too complex and means testing for pensioners discouraged many people from saving for retirement.

Although he did not unveil the details, there has been speculation that a single-tier pension could be worth about £140 a week. (Single people who receive the full state pension and pension credit currently get £132.60 a week.)

A move to a flat-rate state pension would remove disincentives for lower earners to build up savings, and such a change would be likely to benefit mothers, who currently lose out because of career breaks for raising children.

Joanne Segars, chief executive of the National Association of Pension Funds, was among those welcoming the announcement. "We are at a turning point for pensions in the UK," she said. "Radical state pension reform to create a single, simple and more generous state pension could take millions of pensioners out of poverty, and provide a firm foundation for saving for old age. For the first time in a generation, people would know that it pays to save.

"This is a golden opportunity for the government to begin meeting its commitment to 'reinvigorate occupational pensions' and to get the nation saving again. This comes not a moment too soon."

The latest quarterly Real Retirement Report produced by Aviva suggested that more than two thirds of people did not know, or overestimate, the value of the state pension.

"Simplification will help to address this confusion and could encourage customers to make plans for their own retirement," said Paul Goodwin, head of pensions marketing at the insurer.

"With greater understanding of what individuals can expect from the state, people will be better placed to plan their own private savings."

There was also support for the news from accountants.

John Nunn, senior financial planning consultant at PKF, said: "Too often, people who have taken the trouble to save extra for their pensions find that their savings make them ineligible for pension credits and other benefits – so they end up paying twice for what they have. Meanwhile, those who have not bothered to save and just rely on the state pension get everything."

In the news

Savings suffer as we pay off our debts



Best buys

Check out the best annuity rates





On the blogs

Adam Aiken: Credit card offer could be an expensive gimmick

Taxman aiming to put a plug in the payments leak

By **ADAM AIKEN**
MyMoney24 editor

People who work in and around the plumbing sector are the latest to be targeted by the authorities in a clampdown on people failing to declare their earnings and pay the right amount of tax.

Under a plan announced by HM Revenue & Customs, plumbers, gas fitters, heating engineers and members of associated trades who have undeclared tax to pay can come forward until the end of May to disclose what they owe.

Most people who make full disclosures will have to pay penalties of 10pc, with maximum penalties of 20pc.

They have until the end of August to make their disclosures and arrange payment.

HMRC said it would carry out investigations after that date, targeting those who have failed to come forward and make full declarations.

Anyone caught out by that move faces a "substantial" penalty and criminal prosecution.

"Our aim is to make it as easy as possible for plumbers to come forward, make a full disclosure and benefit from a reduced penalty," said Mike Wells, director of risk and intelligence at HMRC.

"We will be using various intelligence sources to target plumbers who have not declared their full income.

"I strongly urge any in this group who think they may owe tax on their income to get in touch with HMRC and get their tax affairs in order simply, and on the best available terms.

"This is the first step in enabling those with undisclosed income or gains to avoid a full tax investigation with much higher penalties. The message is clear: contact us before we contact you."

Self-employed people who know they have made errors or omissions on their tax returns should take advantage of the amnesty, said Graham Sillett, tax partner of chartered accountants Lovewell Blake.

He said: "This is a generous offer. It is an opportunity to come clean where mistakes have been made, with penalties as low as 10pc."

Plumbers, gas fitters and heating engineers were being targeted because HMRC had obtained information from their trade organisation, but Mr Sillett said there were also indications that the amnesty could also be used by businesses generally.

It is the third such campaign run by HMRC in recent years. People with offshore accounts as well as doctors and dentists have already been in the spotlight.

Mr Sillett said the previous campaigns had resulted in significant numbers of people coming forward to make voluntary disclosures.

■ **If you want to make a tax disclosure, complete a notification form at www.hmrc.gov.uk/plumberstaxsafeplan or call 0845 600 4507.**



CLAMPDOWN: Plumbers are the latest to be targeted in a bid to catch people failing to declare their earnings.

> **"This is a generous offer. It is an opportunity to come clean where mistakes have been made**
>
> Graham Sillett

Isa countdown under way

The annual fight by Isa providers to get hold of people's cash is well and truly under way, with a number of new tax-free accounts being launched recently.

Anyone over 16 is allowed to invest up to £5,100 in a cash Isa in the 2010-11 tax year, but you cannot carry the allowance over. That means there is now less than a month to use this year's allowance before it is lost for good.

The banks and other financial providers know that many of us leave it until the last moment before taking action, which is why there is traditionally a spate of new products launched around this time.

According to Moneyfacts.co.uk, there are more cash Isas with introductory bonuses available today than at the same time in the past two years.

Introductory bonuses can make accounts very attractive, but prospective customers need to remember that the rates they pay typically plummet to uncompetitive levels once the bonus period – which usually lasts 12 months – is up.

Spending on cars to rise

The amount of money we are collectively planning to spend on cars over the next six months has hit a three-year high of £51.3bn, even though the number of people expecting to get a new or second-hand car has fallen slightly over the past half-year to 7.15 million.

The figures, compiled by Sainsbury's Finance, suggest that the average spend on a car will be about £7,170 – up more than £500 on six months ago. "Although the number of people looking to buy a car has slightly dropped, the car industry should not be disheartened as the figures in this latest index present a much more encouraging picture for the sector than they did just 18 months to two years ago," said Steven Baillie, head of loans at Sainsbury's Finance.

"The VAT rise that came into force at the beginning of the year does not seem to be putting people off making a car purchase, and consumers appear to be realistic in knowing they are likely to need to spend a bit more."

The research also found that about one in five of those looking to buy a car will want to finance at least part of the purchase with a loan. It is thought that personal loans of £6.2bn will be advanced for this purpose over the next six months.

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Barclays

Barclays has released its Golden Isa Issue 3. This instant-access cash Isa pays a rate of 3.2pc, including a 1pc bonus for 12 months. (As with any rate including an introductory bonus, savers must be aware that the rate will revert to a lower figure once the bonus period expires.) The rate is guaranteed to follow any change in the base rate until March 1, 2012. The minimum investment is £1. Transfers in are not allowed. The account is available to investors aged 16 and over and can be operated in branch. Savers can also operate this account by telephone or online but they must have existing current accounts.

Why is it good?

With a minimum investment amount of just £1 and a market leading rate, this new deal from Barclays has secured its place as one of the market-leading no-notice Isas.

Savings: Saga

Saga has increased the rate on its Three-Year Fixed-Rate Savings account, available via post only, to 4.2pc and it has launched an online-only version of the account. A monthly interest option is also available, paying 4.12pc. Savers can invest between £1 and £10m and further additions can be made whilst the issue remains open. Early access is allowed subject to penalty, depending on the account's remaining term, as follows: up to three years, 270 days; up to two years, 180 days; one year or less, 90 days.

The accounts are available to savers aged 50 and over.

Why is it good?

Saga's latest product review sees a rate increase of 0.35pc to its Three-Year Fixed Rate Savings account as well as the online launch. Paying 4.2pc, these deals sit amongst the other market-leading rates. Both bonds have the flexibility for withdrawals to be made during their terms.

Mortgages: Woolwich

Woolwich (part of Barclays) has launched a fixed-rate deal costing 3.99pc to April 30, 2013. The maximum loan-to-value is 70pc and customers can borrow between £50,000 and £1m.

There is an arrangement fee of £199 and incentives of a free valuation fee for properties valued up to £2m. Remortgage borrowers can enjoy free legal fees and a £200 rebate.

Why is it good?

This fixed-rate mortgage offers customers with deposits of at least 30pc a competitive rate for two years. The deal has a small arrangement fee and a range of incentives are offered both to purchase and to remortgage borrowers. Flexible features such as the option to make overpayments and take payment holidays are also offered.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK



THE foundations of the London Array wind farm's first turbine were sunk into the Thames Estuary seabed this week, a landmark moment for the project.

When phase one is completed next year, the 175 turbines will provide enough energy to power two-thirds of Kent's homes.

With fossil fuels running low and costing more, it is encouraging to see the South East leading the way in renewable energy.

SIMON ROBINSON
BUSINESS EDITOR
TELEPHONE: 01303 817185
EMAIL: simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Enterprise zone lobby urges Osborne to act

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

EAST Kent could become one of Government's flagship enterprise zones to help fuel job growth and attract new businesses in the run up to Pfizer's closure.

In what would be a revival of a Thatcher-era scheme, 10 areas of the UK could be selected as specialist zones that would benefit from company tax breaks and lenient planning rules.

Councils may also be able to keep all business rates they raise in the zones. Chancellor George Osborne said the plan – costing £100 million over four years – would help attract new business and boost employment.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter and South Thanet MP Laura Sandys are expected to put forward a case at Whitehall pushing for east Kent to be considered as one of the 10 zones, despite speculation that northern parts of the country are being targeted.

They will use Pfizer's departure from Sandwich in 2012 and the resulting 2,400 job losses to argue their case.

Flagship

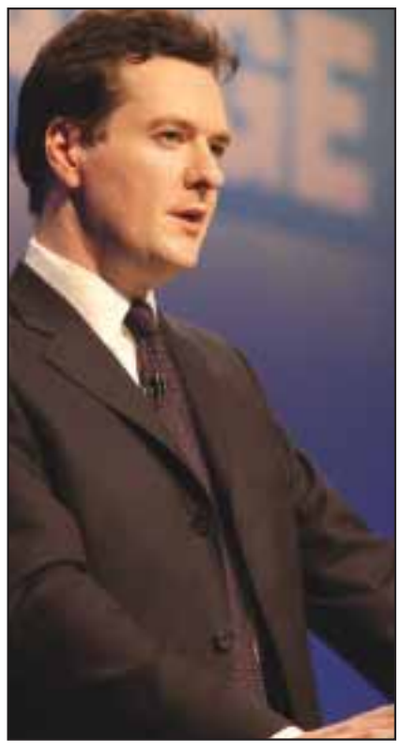
During an adjournment debate in the House of Commons this week, Ms Sandys told science minister David Willetts that east Kent, stretching along the Manston corridor, should be looked upon as a potential for the scheme.

"We would like the Government to look on this area as one of the flagship enterprise zones," she said.

Mr Willetts said the Government was focusing on all the issues surrounding Pfizer's decision to leave the Sandwich site, including the possibility of the area becoming a specialist zone.

"There is much work to be done on the exact design – to what extent it is a matter of rate relief, liberalising the planning regime or other special tax reliefs," he said.

"Both the definition of the scope for enterprise zones and the choice of the areas where those will be are important. I know that the case for this area of Kent will be made powerfully."



IN THE ZONE: Chancellor George Osborne

Under the Conservative Government during the mid-1980s to early 1990s, 38 zones were established – the most famous being the redevelopment of the Isle of Dogs in London's Docklands, now Canary Wharf – but many of these lapsed back into depression after only a few years of success.

Mr Osborne argued the new zones would focus on areas of high growth, not just physical decline.

The move gives fresh hope to politicians fighting to save the east Kent economy and the thousands of Pfizer workers at risk of losing their jobs.

Ms Sandys, who has called on ministers to press Pfizer for more time before the redundancy process starts, said the area needed Government commitment for the long term.

"We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn our local economy around so that in years to come my colleagues and I can proudly state, 'Yes, our area is part of the South East economy'," she said.

During the same parliamentary debate, the issue of transport was also raised. Ms Sandys said the east Kent economy had been crying out for years for better transport links.

"The area is 70 miles for London, but can take two hours to reach by train," she said.

Upgrade

"The minister [Mr Willetts] experienced a very lengthy train journey of two-and-a-half hours because of both a slow train and works on the line, so he knows that, per mile, Sandwich to London is one of the slowest routes in the country.

"I therefore ask for the Government's support for our bid to get the rail line from London to Thanet upgraded so that we can get to Thanet within the hour.

"That would revolutionise our local economy."

Mr Willetts admitted he had experienced a "painfully slow" journey on a recent visit to Sandwich and said there were some transport challenges.

He said Government would consider calls for an improved rail service between Thanet and London as well as a new station on the line.

He also touched on the significance of Manston airport to the economy.

Ms Sandys added that following Pfizer's decision to leave Sandwich, it was vital for Government to help secure investment and encourage new business start-ups on the site.

Still best placed to beat the downturn

ASHFORD business bosses say the town is booming thanks to substantial investment from both the private and public sectors.

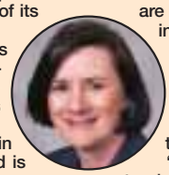
Since the turn of the year a number of multi-million-pound companies have moved into the market town, while existing firms have also expanded. National retail giant Dobbies led the way by opening an £8 million 48,000 sq ft store at the fast-expanding Eureka Park. The move created 120 jobs.

Eureka's developers, Quadrant Estates, are now building a new phase of offices at the site, alongside junction nine of the M20.

Tesco and Sainsbury's are also preparing to invest heavily in expanding their supermarkets in the town.

Tesco will create an extra 75 jobs if it receives the go-ahead to increase its Park Farm store from 40,000 sq ft to 55,000 sq ft, while Sainsbury's will create 350 full- and part-time jobs if it is allowed to double the size of its store at the Warren Retail Park.

Meanwhile SuperCups Vending has just cut the ribbon on a new headquarters, showroom, warehouse and distribution centre, giving it four times as much space.



The firm, which began in a garage in the town, now employs 42 people and is looking to grow its workforce further.

Ashford's Future managing director Judith Armitt, pictured right, said: "Ashford continues to demonstrate we are the best place to do business. Ashford's attractiveness as a business location is boosted by excellent road and rail links, making it one of the most accessible towns. It is reassuring to see more companies are being encouraged to expand or move into the area."

Ashford Borough Council leader Cllr Peter Wood said: "It is extremely encouraging to see many companies investing in Ashford and creating employment opportunities for the town.

"There has been significant public sector investment on infrastructure in recent years and the arrival of high-speed rail services. We are now seeing the private sector show their confidence in the town by moving to or expanding their operations here."

Comment

THE unrelenting rise of reality TV has seen an uncomfortable shift in the public's notion of celebrity. Where once it was widely accepted that genuine talent, dedication, sacrifice and hard work was needed to reach the top, now anyone can seemingly make it into the soulless and vacuous pages of the glossy magazines.

We thought we had it bad when all the boys at school wanted to be David Beckham and all the girls wanted to be Jordan. Now thousands of youngsters across the country have their hearts set on being the next Jedward or Cheeky Girls.

And why? For the perceived financial wealth that comes with fame. These bling-obsessed teens don't want to be teachers or nurses, plumbers or painters.

They want to be mega-rich pop stars, with all the associated trappings: a 20-bedroom mansion, a fleet of luxury cars, a miniature dog in a handbag and a vat of fake tan.

But perhaps not for much longer.

Chancellor George Osborne's Project Merlin has brought a new type of mega-rich superstar to the fore – the bankers.

The agreement between the Government and the UK's four biggest banks will disclose bonuses paid out to their top earners.

Barclays' new chief executive Bob Diamond received a £6.5 million bonus for 2010. That's on top of his £250,000 salary.

And if Diamond hits future targets, his 2010 pay package could top £9m.

RBS and Lloyds, both of which were saved from going under by huge Government bail-outs, also handed out bumper bonuses to their bosses.

RBS chief Stephen Hester received £2m, while Lloyds counterpart Eric Daniels was given £1.45m.

So that's a £9m bonus if you head up a profitable bank, and £1.45 million if you don't. Not bad either way.

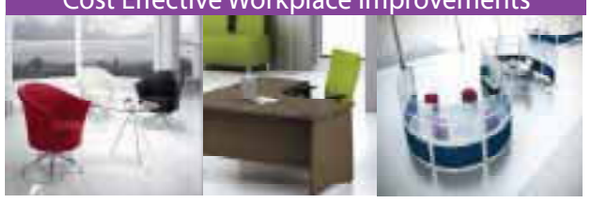
Expect to see Diamond, Hester and Daniels alongside the likes of Hollywood A-listers and Premier League footballers in the pages of the glossy magazines soon.

And kids everywhere saying: "When I grow up I want to become a hedge-fund manager for an irresponsible, Government-funded banking corporation."

Business Editor SIMON ROBINSON
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Slice of overseas cheese action



CANTERBURY Cheesemakers are working seven days a week to keep up with export demand.

Dairy producers say a boom in tourism combined with the weak pound has seen an increase in overseas sales – with goods packed off as far afield as China, Hong Kong, Mexico and the USA.

Jane Bowyer (pictured left), maker of the award-winning Ashmore cheeses at Dargate, has just packed wheels of four different cheeses for an artisanal baker's shop in Kuala Lumpur.

The owner saw the cheeses at the firm's counter at the Goods Shed in Canterbury, visited the dairy and now plans to feature them in his sandwiches.

Meanwhile, the Belgian town of Grez-Doiceau, near Waterloo, hopes to feature them in a food fair as part of its St George's Day festivities.

Ms Bowyer said: "We have had such a good start to the year we now have to make cheese on Sundays and have had to take on two new staff in the last couple of months to keep up with demand."

Offshore wind farm work is under way

WORK has begun on building the London Array offshore wind farm.

The first of the 177 foundations, each weighing 268 tonnes – the equivalent of 35 double-decker buses – was sunk into the Thames Estuary on Tuesday.

Once phase one of the wind farm is completed next year, 175 turbines will generate enough electricity to power 480,000 homes per year.

Tuesday's milestone was hailed by the energy firm behind the London Array project.

Anders Eldrup, chief executive of DONG Energy, said: "This is a significant milestone for London Array – off the shore and into the water.

"Soon we'll be seeing turbines going up and the wind farm starting to generate low-carbon electricity."

Dr Frank Mastiaux, chief executive of E.ON climate and renewables, said: "Installing the first foundation on schedule marks another major step in the construction of the world's largest offshore wind farm.

"It's a great moment for the team now all the detailed planning and preparation over years can finally be seen out in the water."

Dr Sultan Al Jaber, chief executive of Abu Dhabi-based joint partner Masdar, said: "The installation of the first foundation demonstrates the commitment and desire to make London Array a reality, and is testament to the industry-leading resources and experience exemplified by this strategic partnership. Masdar is proud to be at the heart of this ambitious effort."



GENERATION NEXT: London Array's Cleve Hill substation, near Graveney

Each foundation consists of a tubular steel monopile, driven 20 to 50 metres into the seabed, and a large yellow transition piece, which is fixed over the top of the monopile to provide the base for the turbine.

The monopiles are between 33 and 65 metres long and weigh between 200 and 650 tonnes, while the transition pieces are between 20 to 28-metres high and weigh between 245 to 345 tonnes.

London Array is being built about 20km off the north Kent coast.

If approved, the second phase will add enough capacity to bring the total to 1,000MW.

Winning a share of the spoilers

NEARLY 50 jobs have been created in Kent thanks to the launch of the new Range Rover Evoque.

Magna International, which has a base in Hartlip, near Sittingbourne, won the contract to supply bumpers, sills, rear spoilers, interior doors and rear quarter-panels.

The £400-million deal will see 46 jobs created at Hartlip and a further 90 at the firm's Merseyside base.

In total, Range Rover awarded more than £2 billion of contracts to UK companies.

Jaguar Land Rover's director of purchasing, Ian Harnett, said: "The UK's automotive supply base is truly world class. We demand the highest standards from suppliers.



NEW MODEL: Range Rover Evoque

"We focus on many aspects of supplier capability, including technology, quality, materials, environmental performance, efficiency and cost. It is testament to the excellence of companies and employees that 50 per cent of our component business is within the UK.

"The Evoque is a brand new model, so every vehicle we build is incremental volume for us and our suppliers, which is also good news for employment across the industry."

Business secretary Vince Cable also welcomed the deals. During a tour of the Merseyside factory, he said: "Jaguar Land Rover's £2 billion of contracts to businesses in the UK to supply components shows the automotive supply chain is capable of winning major contracts and creating jobs."

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

THE University for the Creative Arts has launched a new consultancy service offering businesses expert advice on a wide range of industries.



The Edge scheme also includes in-house training and access to the university's state-of-the-art technical facilities.

UCA research and enterprise assistant director Uwe Derksen, pictured left, said: "We have a huge pool of highly qualified and very talented people at UCA who have a great deal to offer outside of our five campuses."

For more information, visit www.ucaedge.com.

CREATIVE agency Dandelion was the UK's sole winner at a global brand repositioning awards.

The small Smeeth-based firm picked up a Rebrand 100 trophy in recognition of their work with pharmaceutical company Martindale Pharma.

Managing director Steve Howard said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won this award. It just goes to show that with the right attitude towards branding, a small agency outside of London can still be recognised on a global scale.

"We aim to give our clients the best possible service, without the London price tag, and the fact that we are the only UK agency this year to win the award, just underlines what we always believed was possible."

SHEPHERD Neame has received a silver award in the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

The Faversham brewery was given the award after proving to be actively engaged in reducing the negative environmental and social impacts of its tourism operations.

Sheps' visitor centre manager Graham Hukins said: "We are very pleased to have received this award, which recognises the sustainable practices we have in place for the benefit of the environment, the community, visitors and the company.

"It fits in other local initiatives such as the Faversham Walks and Food and Drink Trails that Shepherd Neame supports."

SOCIAL care provider Avante Partnership held its inaugural Stars Awards night to recognise committed staff who had contributed to the organisation's success.

The partnership – which includes Avante Care and Support, Avante Community Support and Stepahead Support – was established in 1990 and is now one of the largest care providers in the South East and London.

Chief executive Cedric Fredrick said: "I felt it only seemed right that staff – past and present – should be saluted and recognised as an Avante Star, and what better way to do this than to have an awards night? From this the Stars Awards was born for a night to remember."

SMALL and medium-sized firms are being advised to get their book-keeping in order, on the eve of a Customs clampdown.

The warning was issued by TaxAssist Accountants, based in Larkfield, and comes after HMRC announced its Business Records Check campaign.

The company's Gary Richards said: "Keeping up to date with book-keeping can be a big administrative job that often becomes a burden to small businesses.

"However, keeping on top of records can lead to better management of your business and its cashflow. Plus, HMRC is less likely to take further action if your records are found to be satisfactory."

Partners' bonus spreads wealth

JOHN Lewis workers will receive an 18 per cent bonus after the group posted a 10 per cent rise in profits, ***writes Simon Robinson***.

The bumper pay day will go to all of John Lewis Partnership's 76,500 full-time workers, including those at the Bluewater (1,317) and Tunbridge Wells (238) branches.

The PLC – which includes 32 John Lewis stores and 244 Waitrose supermarkets – saw profits to January 29, this year, rise £41.3 million to £431m.

Under a £194.5m Partnership Bonus deal each full-time employee, from shop assistants through to the chief executive, will be rewarded with a one-off payment equivalent to 18 per cent of their salary.

Improving

John Lewis Partnership chairman Charlie Mayfield paid tribute to the employees, known as partners, for their hard work.

He said: "Our partners have shown their commitment to continually improving what we do every day.

"The profits we make go to partners and to improving the business. I'm delighted that we've announced partners will receive a bonus of 18 per cent – an average of more than nine weeks' pay.

"In addition, we have paid £267m into our pension fund in the last year. Looking to the future, while we expect more difficult conditions for much of the year, we are confident of our plans. We will invest £600m this year and expect to create 4,300 new jobs."

One area that has already benefited from investment is Tunbridge Wells, with the west Kent town's John Lewis at home store opening in November, 2010.

Branch manager Gabby Armstrong said: "The shop opened with a 90 per cent majority of new partners, with the total partners working here 220.

"Since opening, we experienced a buoyant Christmas and clearance period, where the team reacted fabulously to the high demand, offering an exceptional level of service – a great achievement for all our partners.

"Bonus day for us is a new and exciting experience. This will the first time many reap the rewards of being a partner in John Lewis. It's our business and we should all feel proud of our achievements.

"I'm very proud of the team's achievement here. They are amazing, so bonus day is our time to celebrate."

John Lewis Bluewater managing director Karen Lord said: "We underwent a major refurbishment in 2009, introducing a fourth trading floor featuring one of only two food halls in the division's portfolio and a new kitchenware department.

"The success of this led to the branch finishing the full trading year at plus-12 per cent. This was a record year's trade for us and a result our partners are proud of.

"The food hall continues to get positive feedback from customers. We are looking forward to another exciting year and our partners are committed to continuing to give great service."

John Lewis saw operating profit rise 22.2 per cent to £201.2m, while Waitrose profits went up three per cent, £8.1m to £274.9m.



COUNT US IN: John Lewis partners celebrate bonus at Bluewater

Berth of profits boost

HIGHWAY Marine has gone hi-tech in a bid to boost profits.

The Sandwich-based firm has enlisted the services of The Waypoint, which enables boat owners to book berths over the internet or via smartphone.

The online booking facility, launched at last month's London Boat Show, helps marinas maximise revenue on empty berths by advertising them on a central database.

Sailors can log in and immediately search and book a berth in their marina of choice with just a click of a button.

Highway Marine's mooring manager, James Blackmore, said: "We wanted to gain web presence for our berths and The Waypoint is a great platform to achieve this without having to invest heavily in new technology or web advertising. We are looking forward to seeing the benefits of using it over the coming months and the ease with which sailors will be able to book berths with us."

The Waypoint co-founder Charles Bacon said: "Being web-based, we benefit from a number of advantages over the typical database or office whiteboard.

"By updating vacancies online, the whole boating world can now find out about berths. Also, because it's free for marinas to sign up for the first year, there's nothing to risk and everything to gain. A number of marinas have already signed up and we are delighted to welcome Highway on board."

Highway Marine has been providing services to sailors and boat owners since the 1970s.



VISIONARY: Turner Contemporary gallery

Seeing the light during preview

TOURISM-based businesspeople have been given a sneak preview of the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate.

More than 150 hairdressers, hoteliers, taxi drivers and restaurateurs were treated to a tour of the attraction, which opens next month.

Margate Renewal Partnership director Derek Harding said the gallery would have a positive impact on Thanet and beyond.

"It was fantastic to see so many people," he said. "This is going to be a huge boost for Margate and the whole area. We want to involve key local businesses to show them the benefits Turner Contemporary will bring.

"I think it's fair to say a number of people came along thinking one thing but left with a completely different view."

Taxi driver Hugh Brown said: "I've really changed my opinion. Turner Contemporary shouldn't be seen in isolation, but as part of a concept which will help the area.

"I haven't had much to do with art in the past. I thought I wouldn't understand it, but I didn't realise how beautiful some of Turner's works are and I'm quite impressed."

South Lodge Guest House owners Bill and Christa Hackney said: "It will do well for the area, the building is very impressive, iconic even, from the outside, but is even more impressive inside."



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BUSINESS WEEK

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Flat-out to end eyesore



DIGGING IN: Rod Clark, with Mike Flannery, on site in Dover

THE Marpaul Group is carrying out work on a Dover development thanks to a £1.1 million NatWest Bank loan.

The Hadlow-based property developers are using the cash to turn a fire-damaged building, in Park Avenue, into 11 flats.

The project has started to take shape and will be finished by this summer.

Marpaul's managing director, Rod Clark, said: "Marpaul is a diverse business and one we are proud to say is doing extremely well in these challenging times.

"The site at Dover was an eyesore and local residents are delighted we are in the process of turning this into an attractive residential development.

Some flats will boast views of Dover Castle and will be finished to our usual high standard."

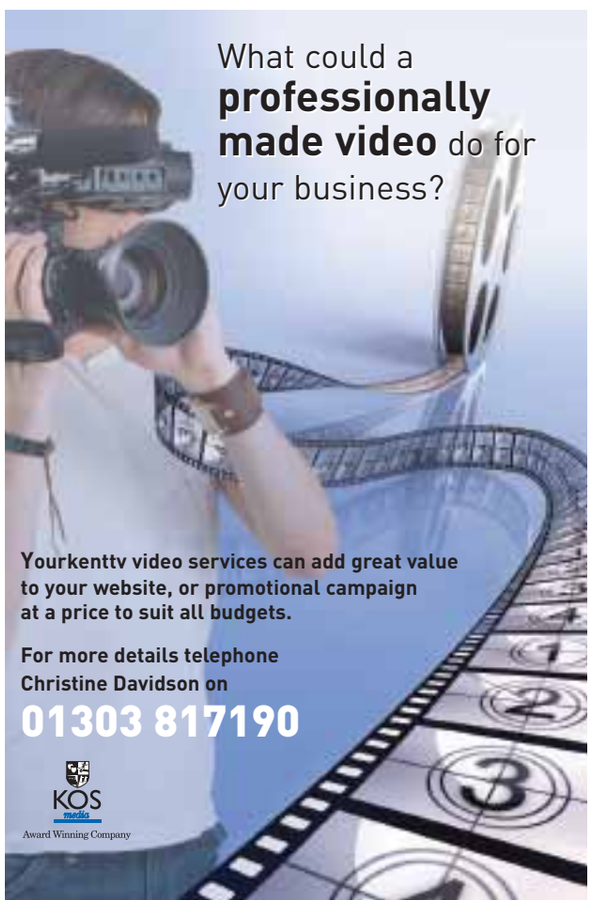
The firm has now received NatWest funding on two projects in the last 18 months, having turned to the bank for a Hadlow farm buildings project in 2009.

Marpaul turned the Grove Farm property into student accommodation, providing 55 en-suite rooms for Hadlow College, which is just three miles away.

NatWest's Mike Flannery, who oversaw both deals, said: "Marpaul is a long-standing customer and we were delighted to be able to structure the appropriate funding for the Dover development.

"Rod has a proven track record in this field. Over the last 10 years Marpaul has completed many prestigious projects in London and the Home Counties, working with a variety of customers in the education and healthcare sectors.

"I wish him well with the Dover development and look forward to seeing the end result."



Career U-turn rediscover his

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK
THE BIG INTERVIEW

Farm estate manager Oliver Doubleday made the decision to take a career U-turn while out driving in the Kent countryside. The father-of-three chose not to pursue his work as a molecular biologist and returned to Bax Farmhouse at Tonge, near Sittingbourne, to continue the business' 150-year association with his family. Mr Doubleday keeps his eye in through the East Malling Research facility and believes further food science has a big part to play in the future.
He spoke to Business Week editor Simon Robinson



Oliver Doubleday

OLIVER Doubleday says he is the man with the oil can. The 59-year-old explains that his job on his family's Sittingbourne estate is to keep things running and the wheels turning.

"I really like people to get on and I really want to facilitate that," he said. "In some ways I see myself as the guy who's there to keep an eye on things and if I see something that needs oil, then I will oil it.

"I'm not hands-on in the sense of rolling up my sleeves and driving tractors. I'm hands-on in the fact that I'm about and I'm busy, and I'm talking to people and encouraging them, trying to make it happen.

"The Brazilians have a saying that translates as, 'The farmer's eye fattens the bullock', and the English equivalent is, 'The farmer's boot is the best fertiliser'.

"It means there's nothing better than getting out and looking and seeing and mixing it up. By the same token, I try not to interfere because I've got really good people who are doing well and I don't want to introduce confusion by getting in their way."

As managing director of GH Dean and Co Ltd, Doubleday oversees the family firm's vast estate, which consists of more than 1,100 hectares of arable, 2,500 ewes and 140 hectares of fruit – apples, pears and cherries.

He began working on the farms in 1981 but it was not a given that he would continue the long father-to-son lineage.

Pointing to family portraits hung side-by-side in his unassuming Bax Farmhouse office, Doubleday explained: "I'm the son, grandson and great grandson of farmers. My family has been in farming here for more than 150 years.

"But I was trained as a molecular biologist and carried out post-doctoral research in Belgium, Holland then briefly in the US before coming back here.

"The turning point came for me when I was driving through Kent on a beautiful spring day.

"At the time I was not unsuccessful as a biologist, but I was working very long hours and could see people like me getting divorced.

"I thought to myself, 'Do you want to end up as a professor in Paris filling in forms and funding applications? Where's the quality of life?' So I decided to come back to the farm."

The father-of-three has fused his family's business with his scientific background, taking an interest in research and development of the farming industry.



KENTISH ROOTS: Oliver Doubleday's family has been farming in county for 150 years

THIS interest has seen Doubleday take up the position of chairman at East Malling Research (EMR), the UK's principal provider of horticultural research and development.

"I had been very serious about science and I still really enjoy it, so it's great to be the chairman of EMR. I'm there to support and offer guidance, so I'm closely involved with it and get to know about what's happening.

"There's a whole range of fantastic work being done. A member of the team's recent project saw him undertake the sequencing of the strawberry genome – that's fun.

"I'm immensely proud of what EMR has achieved and quite passionate in my belief that we have to reinvest in research facilities.

"People think it's a cover for GM [genetically modifed], but that's not the main game in town. There has been a clear warning on the 'perfect storm' we will soon face in terms of climate change and the need for more food, water and energy. This needs to be addressed by good science.

"It is going to be important in future to produce food with fewer resources, less water and lower environmental impact. There is a perception that farming is getting worse in terms of pesticides and GM foods but this is just not true. We are doing it so much better now."

helped Oliver Kentish roots



INFLUENCE: With former Labour minister Hilary Benn

Doubleday says scientific research, coupled with huge advances in farming machinery and technology, had transformed the industry in a single generation.

"I'm producing three to four times more than my father used to produce and the fruit is better quality. We understand what we're doing a bit better, the fruit is hanging better on our trees and we can produce more and at a better quality – something that is genuinely necessary.

"Our customers want the fruit to be absolutely first class. In the past, quality was less of an issue as fruit was in short supply and had to be locally sourced.

"But the rate of change in the past generation has been astonishing and the one certainty for the future is uncertainty. If you look at the past and see how rapidly things have evolved, the one good bet is it's not going to stop, things will get more and more sophisticated."

The farmer, who sells his produce to the leading supermarkets, said he was pleased to see a recent resurgence in shoppers buying English, seasonal fruit.

"The UK is deficient in horticultural production – salads and veg, and apples and pears," he said.

"But our strawberries have been a great success. These growers have done an excellent job and have managed to displace imports. They have increased the season and produced really high-quality products and people have recognised that.

"I would rather our fruit was locally sourced. Often imported goods have been on long journeys and whoever bred it did it in a way more for its ability to stand up to long journeys than to give it a nice taste.

"I went to the Taste of Kent Awards and was surprised by the enthusiasm of the people and amount of buzz in the room.

"Clearly from the number of entrants it's obvious that we've got a vibrant sector in the county and people who are dedicated to providing really good food and drink. It's great.

"I'm a little part of that. We think we grow a pretty mean apple and a really nice cherry. I welcome locally produced. I think it's responsible. People should care about the quality of their food."

LIKE the Taste of Kent award nominees, Doubleday is more concerned about the quality of his products than making huge profits.

He said: "Our turnover is about £3 million, not as high as it would be if we were selling packed fruit."

Which begs the question; why don't you pack your fruit rather than pay someone else to do it for you?

"I think it's very important in life to decide not only what you do but also what you're not going to do," he said.

"I'm very clear that I'm quite busy enough with what I do at the moment and I'm not looking to do more things. I'm quite happy if I can find good people to do more things for me but that's another matter.

"Above all else we have to be excellent. If you're not in the top quartile in farming you're probably not making any profit.

"Certainly if you're not in the top half you're not making profit. I aim to be at the very, very top, which we are able to be with our arable produce.

"This is not because I'm particularly clever but we are blessed in Kent with good soil and climate. Our wheat yield is probably 20 per cent above UK average. If I was getting the average I would not be profitable and if I was at the lower end of the average I would be losing money.

"So it's very important to be very good at what you do. It's a very competitive market and I'm not just talking about my neighbour – it's a global market.

"Price pressures and these things are very acute – it's not an easy job."



GOLDEN GLOW: GH Dean and Co's estate includes 140 hectares of fruit



OLIVER DOUBLEDAY CV

- Managing director of family's estate: 1,150 hectares of arable, 590 hectares of grass for 2,500 ewes, 140 hectares of fruit
- Working on the farms since 1981
- Involved in the management of an 85-hectare rubber plantation, owned by wife, Maria, in São Paulo, Brazil
- Trustee of the Brogdale Horticultural Trust
- Chairman of East Malling Research, since 2006
- Local director for Kent of the NFU Mutual, since 2005



Eyes on the prize for IoD's shortlisted trio

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

THREE Kent business bosses have been shortlisted for an Institute of Directors' prize.

The efforts of Kevin Kneebone, Nicky Pearson and Steve Martin have all been recognised ahead by the IoD's London and South East Director of the Year awards.

The trio will learn their fate at a gala dinner in London on Tuesday, March 22.

Kneebone, managing director at landmine clearance firm BACTEC International has been nominated in the international business up to £24.99 million category.

During his eight years with the Rochester-based business he has moved control of the company to a board of directors but also found the time to get his hands dirty in the field.

"I like to lead from the front and set an example," he said. "Recently I was in the middle of the Baltic Sea working on a project disposing of unexploded ordnance with leading edge in-house technology developed by BACTEC. I'll shortly be heading off to the Middle East to do the same."

Pearson founded The Beauty Works in Dartford in 1993. The managing director has been shortlisted in the £5m to £24.99m category. The company designs and commissions the manufacture of consumer health, fitness and electrical beauty products and clients include Tesco, Asda, Next, Sainsbury's, Wilkinsons, Aldi and New Look.



ALL SMILES: Steve Martin and (inset) Kevin Kneebone have been shortlisted

Having survived the 2008 collapse of another major client, Woolworths, the company now boasts a turnover of £5 million and 10 staff.

"We believe we can do anything any of our clients ask of us," said Pearson. "There is no hierarchy here, everyone contributes with ideas and we are constantly moving forward. As a result we can move and respond much quicker than our bigger competitors."

Martin is in the running for Director of the Year for companies with a turnover of up to £4.99m.

He founded Xmo Strata in 2002 and has grown it into one of the UK's leading sign installation and maintenance companies, with clients including BP, Shell, Esso and Chevron.

True to his desire to establish the safest and best-quality service provider in the field, he has refused to cut back on staff training and development during the recession and encourages his teams to take the lead.

He said: "I like my staff to give me solutions. I couldn't fit a sign in a million years so if we are looking at a new procedure I'll get four or five people together and we'll try it, take suggestions, try it again and agree the best way."

The IoD awards are sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The firm's South East regional leader, John Minards, said: "This year we received a record number of entries and the calibre of the nominations was incredibly high.

"All the finalists have demonstrated best in class performance and we would like to congratulate them on reaching this stage."



NICKY PEARSON: Founded The Beauty Works



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JOIN THE TEAM: Ideal Waste Paper Co's move into Kent has created 60 jobs

A PURPOSE-built recycling depot has opened in Swanley, creating 60 jobs.

The Ideal Waste Paper Co has invested £14 million in the ultra-modern depot, which will also serve as the firm's new headquarters.

Managing director Kenny Thew said: "We have planned for years to relocate to premises where we can expand our business.

"Our new Kent facility, near the M25, will offer local authorities and major account-holders significant benefits for recycling across the south.

"We are committed to the development of a sustainable environment and actively encourage industry to exploit the potential for recycling."

Kent County Council's deputy leader, Cllr Alex King, said he was pleased the firm had chosen to move into the county.

"We are delighted Ideal Waste Paper has decided to invest in our county and help our local authorities progress with their recycling commitments."



IMPRESSIVE: New depot at Swanley

Locate in Kent chief executive Paul Wookey said: "It's exciting that Ideal Waste Paper chose Kent for its impressive facilities.

"We're pleased to have been able to assist the company by introducing it to Kent-based businesses, which will continue to provide support."

BUSINESS WEEK SPOTLIGHT HOSPITALITY

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Sparkling jewel in port's crown

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ELEGANT seafront hotel is set to reopen after being restored to its original Regency splendour.

The 81-bedroom Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa has undergone a multi-million-pound renovation and now boasts three conference rooms, a restaurant and bar, seafront coffee shop and ice cream parlour and a fitness and spa centre.

The hotel, which takes up a large mid-section of the five-storey Grade II-listed Waterloo Crescent terrace, is being run by Leaf Hotels, which operates two other hotels in east Kent.

Sixty jobs have been created at their latest hotel.

Leaf Hotels general manager David Otteson said he was delighted with the results of the six-month restoration project.

"The hotel is the jewel in Dover's crown, with breathtaking views across the beach and the harbour to the Channel and beyond to France," he said.

"Thanks to its fusion of 21st-century comfort and 19th-century styling, the hotel is full of character and charm. With excellent access to ferry and cruise terminals, it's ideal for business and leisure.

"This is a wonderful place to stay, an ideal base to enjoy the delights of Kent, or a day trip to France and Belgium."

The hotel boss also praised the quality of the refurbishment work undertaken by award-winning interior design practice Nicholas Hollinshead Interiors.

He said: "The brief was to blend the original 1830s features with modern-day facilities and the result is stunning. Wallpapers, carpets and furniture have been sourced from all over the world to make this one of the most stylish hotels in Kent. We are all thrilled with the outcome."



FINE DINING: The refurbished restaurant

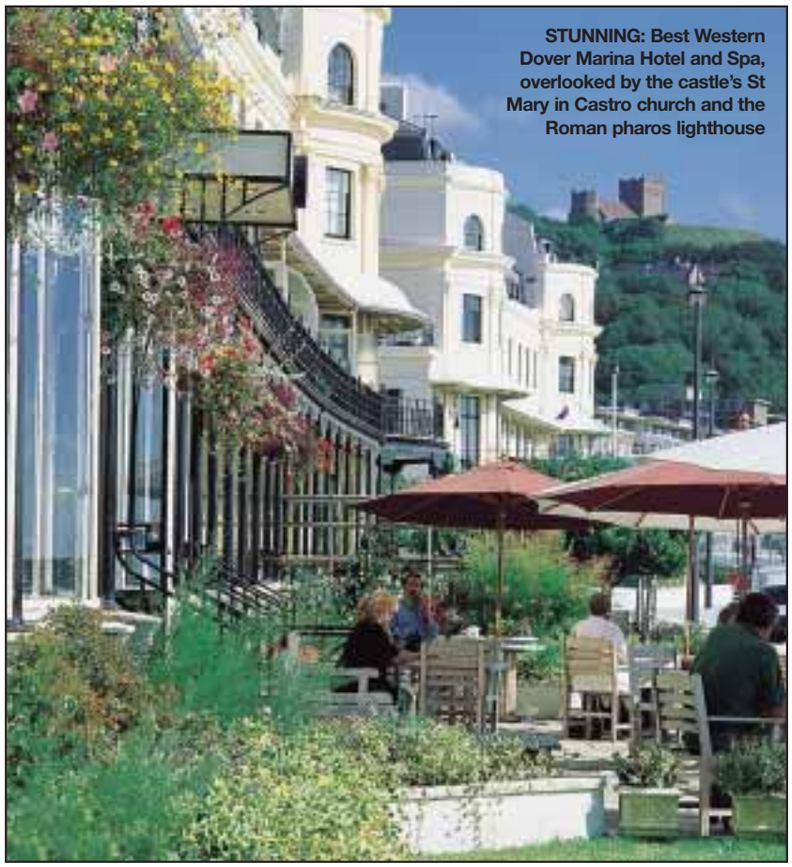
Tourism champion Visit Kent's chief executive, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said the hotel will be a boost to the county's tourism industry.

"They are to be congratulated for having the vision, dedication and commitment to deliver such an exciting project," she said.

"The hotel is a welcome addition to the hospitality sector. The county needs additional high-quality bed stock and the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa offers just that."

The hotel, formerly known as the Churchill, caters for weddings, meetings and conferences, plus theme nights, fine dining parties and private dining.

It will be officially reopened on Thursday, March 24.



STUNNING: Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, overlooked by the castle's St Mary in Castro church and the Roman pharos lighthouse



Towering success at castle

LEEDS Castle's newly-restored private function wing has proven a huge success – with wedding bookings alone at a four-year high.

The historic castle's Maiden's Tower has been converted into a multi-purpose conference facility and also boasts five bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms.

The Tower, which played host to movie-star parties in the 1920s and '30s and was the setting for secret political discussions during World War Two, was reopened in its current guise in October, last year.

Leeds Castle's hospitality business manager Debbie Matthews said feedback had been overwhelmingly positive.

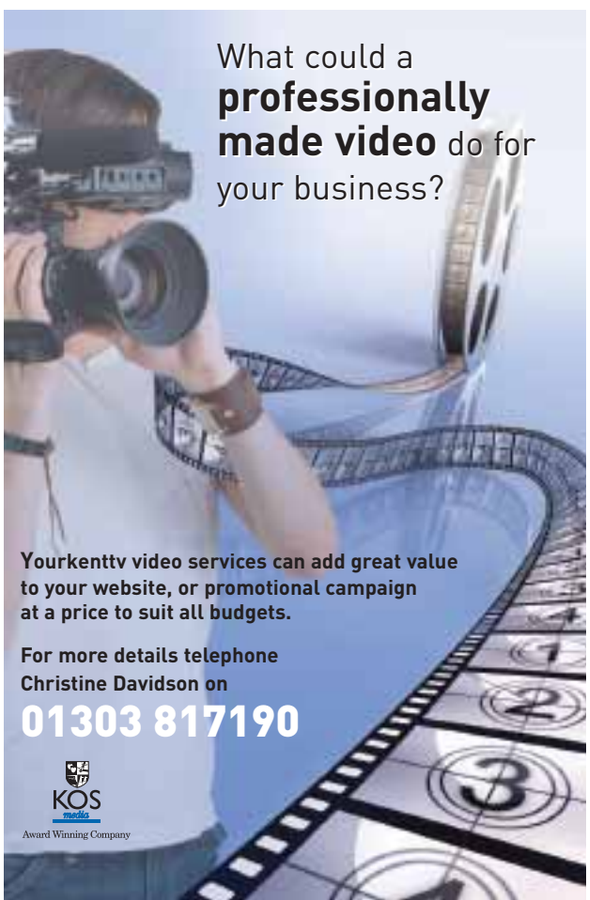
"It's going really well," she said. "The facilities have been well received. The Tower appeals to different markets. Wedding bookings are buoyant – the highest in four years – but corporate bookings have also been high thanks to the two flexible support rooms we can offer.

"The great thing is that we're yet to see just how fantastic the Maiden's Tower can be. Once the summer comes we can get the most out of the private garden. We're really pleased with the response."

Built in the early 12th century to replace the earlier Saxon manor of Esledes, Leeds Castle was later home to a succession of kings and queens.

Perhaps its most famous owner was Henry VIII, who spent lavishly to transform the castle from a rugged fortress into a royal palace and was responsible for much of its splendour.

He ordered the construction of the Maiden's Tower in about 1544 in preparation for the visit of his first queen, Catherine of Aragon, to house the royal maids of honour.



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THE CATWALK

There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie, swimwear, and men's attire.

On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.

HOSTED BY TV GELEBRITY CLAIRE SWEENEY

For exhibitor information contact Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@kosmedia.co.uk

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Pictures by Igor Kupco and Ady Kerry

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